

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic FORT NIAGARA

and or common OLD FORT NIAGARA

2. Location

street & number N.Y.S. Route 18F not for publication

city, town Youngstown vicinity of

state New York code 36 county Niagara code 63

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name (See continuation sheet 4-1)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Niagara County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Lockport state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.Y.S. Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? N.H.L. ☐ yes ☐ no

date December 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records New York State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Albany state New York

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark is located at the northwest corner of the Town of Porter in Niagara County, New York. The landmark is within Fort Niagara State Park and is situated on a point of land on the south shore of Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara River. The Niagara River is an international boundary between the United States and Canada. Fort Niagara State Park was formerly a U.S. Military Reservation and was acquired in 1964 by the State of New York for park development.

The Niagara River drains the Great Lakes Basin flowing from the east end of Lake Erie to the western end of Lake Ontario at its south shore. Geologically the Niagara Region consists of a series of descending terraces separated by east-west escarpments. Fort Niagara is located on the Ontario Plain below the Niagara Escarpment. In New York State the Ontario Plain occupies a narrow belt along the south and east sides of Lake Ontario. The south shore of Lake Ontario is nearly everywhere lined with bluffs 15 to 60 feet high formed by the erosion of glacial deposits above a Queenston shale bedrock.

The Niagara waterway which was a heavily travelled passage in the pre-European era became a funnel of the immense wealth of fur trade coming out of the Great Lakes Basin. Fort Niagara was established as a wilderness outpost to intercept this trade by controlling the river and the portage route around Niagara Falls. It provided the French with a foothold in an area controlled by the Senecas, the westernmost and most hostile of the five Iroquois Nations.

The triangular point of land formed by an abrupt westward turn in the river as it entered the south shore of Lake Ontario was chosen as the site of the fort for its natural defensive properties. The high level land here offered a commanding view of both the lake and the river at once, and of the opposite less defensible shore. The steep lake bluffs 31 feet above the water and a wide band of rocky shoals below the bluffs made a lakeside attack unlikely. Along the river's edge a gently sloping bottomland provided a natural docking place for supply ships and canoes together with a naturally ramped ascent under the protection of the high plateau. Due to the triangular shape of the plateau, a single landward fortification could span the level area between the river and the lake. These physical relationships which determined the design of the defenses at Fort Niagara are unchanged and are still clearly discernible.

(See continuation sheet 7-1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1726--1816

Builder/Architect C. de Lery, Pouchot, Montessor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the 18th century both the British and the French considered Fort Niagara to be the strategic key to the vast Great Lakes Basin. Fort Niagara controlled the west end of Lake Ontario and the entry to the Niagara River. This river was the major route of travel and trade to the interior. Due to this circumstance the fort became the supply depot for the entire system of forts that was established on the upper Great Lakes. Without Niagara those forts were untenable. The loss of Fort Niagara to the British in the French and Indian War marked, in 1759, the end of French dominion in the territory that is now the United States. The fort was the object of a month long successful siege utilizing classic 18th century European tactics. In 1764 the fort was the site of the largest single gathering of Native American tribal leaders in North America, when they convened outside the walls of the fort to negotiate with Sir William Johnson and break the Pontiac Conspiracy. During the American Revolution the fort was the base of operations for the "Border Wars" on central New York and Pennsylvania. The fort was retained by the British after the Revolutionary War until they were specifically required to relinquish control of it. by the Jay Treaty. The fort played an important part in the Niagara Campaign of the War of 1812. It was captured by the British in 1813 and preserved from destruction in the otherwise wholesale devastation of the Niagara Frontier. Fort Niagara contains the most complete collection of extant 18th century military architecture in the U.S., including the unique stone chateau of 1726, which is the oldest masonry structure in the entire Great Lakes Basin. The fort contains unique examples of British military engineering, and there are numerous areas of proven archaeological resources within and without the walls of the fort.

(See continuation sheet 8-1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet 9-1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 30

Quadrangle name Fort Niagara

Quadrangle scale 1:25 000

UTM References

AA

1	7	6	5	7	6	0	0	4	7	9	1	3	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

BB

1	7	6	5	7	0	0	0	4	7	9	1	3	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

CC

1	7	6	5	7	0	0	0	4	7	9	1	8	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

DD

1	7	6	5	7	6	0	0	4	7	9	1	8	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See continuation sheet 10-1)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John H. Conlin, Architectural Historian

organization

date

street & number 23 University Avenue

telephone (716) 835 9236

city or town Buffalo

state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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In addition to the approximately 27 acraa of Fort Niagara State Park, 2.9 acraa of land owned by the U.S. Coast Guard are included in the Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark.

Fort Niagara State Park:

Mario Pirastru, Regional Manager
Niagara Frontier State Park &
Recreation Commission
Prospect Park
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

U.S. Coast Guard Station:

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard Station Niagara
Youngstown, New York 14174

The highest local elected offical is:

Mr. Ronald C. Johnston, Supervisor
Town of Porter
Town Hall
120 Lockport Street
Youngstown, New York 14174

The restored fort is managed by the Old Fort Niagara Association:

Brian Dunnigan, Director
Old Fort Niagara Association
Youngstown, New York 14174

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The Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark is one contiguous area including: the fortification works, the grounds and buildings within the fortifications, and adjacent areas intimately connected with (and evocative of) historic events and activities of the fort. The adjacent areas include "The Bottoms," an historic area below the present river wall of the fort at the river's edge, now occupied by the U. S. Coast Guard Station Niagara, on which there are confirmed archaeological remains of the extensive trader town that existed here as an immediate dependancy of the fort throughout the period of national significance, 1726-1816. Also included are the burial grounds established by the French on the high bank of the river, as well as a battlefield area in advance of the landward fortifications.

Although the landside fortifications include stone-trimmed brick revetment ramparts constructed in the Civil War era, the design of these ramparts and the extensive earthworks in front of them, has been continuously maintained along the same lines since they were originally designed and constructed by the French military engineer Captain Pierre Pouchot in 1755-56. The defense work is a classic Vauban type ideally suited to the level terrain between the high river and lake banks. The ramparts consist of an easterly facing curtain wall flanked on the north and on the south by a demi-bastion. Rising in advance of the curtain wall is a large triangular ravelin surrounded by a deep fosse. The ravelin was in turn flanked by two lower triangular earthworks termed "demi-lunes." The north demi-lune has been erased due to erosion by the lake. A sallyport tunneling under the center of the curtain wall has been a continuous feature of the defenses since their inception.

The main entrance to the fort was located by Captain Pouchot in the reentrant angle formed by the intersection of the south demi-bastion wall with the wall along the riverside. A wooden drawbridge over the dry moat at the base of the ramparts was operated from a vaulted headhouse which was positioned within the upper area of the earthen ramparts. This entrance was closed in the early 19th century; and when the ramparts were later reinforced with brick revetments this masonry treatment was carried across the face of the walls in the reentrant angle. In 1929, as part of the interpretive program of the fort's restoration, the masonry facing was removed from this area and a wooden drawbridge and a masonry vaulted headhouse were reconstructed. A cannon battery protecting this entrance was reconstructed to illustrate the original manner of mounting cannon on the earthen ramparts with log revetments. This was the type of defense used throughout the period of national significance.

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Facing the riverside is a high thick randomly coursed cut stone wall which was built in 1839. It, however, closely follows the lines of a previous earthen river wall which from 1755 had included an entrance at the same position as the present "postern gate" at the head of a sloping ramp ascending from "The Bottoms." A demi-bastion incorporated into an angle of this river wall also follows the outline of an earlier demi-bastion located there by the British c.1770. The bluff along the lake shore is protected by a revetment of similar cut-stone work built in 1840 to protect against lake-side erosion.

Although Fort Niagara was the site of two earlier wooden 17th century forts: Fort Conti and Fort Denonville, no physical evidence of these structures has survived. Construction of the present fort was begun by the French in 1726 with the construction of the extant stone chateau or "maison a machicoulis." The most important buildings within the fort were constructed of stone and have survived. Fort Niagara now contains six 18th century stone buildings and combines French, British and American fortification works. In 1927 while the landmark was still part of an active U.S. military base, restoration of the fort was begun 200 years after its initial construction. Since Fort Niagara, although twice captured, was never reduced to a ruinous state, reconstruction has played a comparatively minor role in the restoration of the fort. In addition to the drawbridge mentioned above, a log artificer's building has been reconstructed on the site of an earlier log building which was part of Pouchot's expansion of the fort in 1755 and continued in existence to the early 19th century. None of the fort's log or frame structures have survived. Of the stone structures the oldest is also the largest and the most prominent, the stone chateau designed and supervised in construction by Chaussegros de Lery.

The two and a half story rectangular stone chateau measures 96'x48' and has a double pitched hip roof. It is constructed of uncoursed fieldstone with window and doorway trim of cut bluestone. The nine-bay facade is symmetrically arranged into three sets of three bays each with a doorway centered in each of the three sets of bays. On the facade facing southeast there is a dormer over each of the nine bays. The building is sited on the high bluff overlooking Lake Ontario such that it is always viewed against a background of sky and water.

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The stone chateau built in 1726-27 was designed to be a self-contained stronghold. The Iroquois had long opposed the establishment of a fort here and were only persuaded to accept the construction of a "chateau de paix" which would function as a convenient trade house. A key element of the design was its appearance of a domestic rather than a military nature. The design contained all the functions necessary to this specialized military post in one structure. In addition to a large trading room there were also troop billets, a powder magazine, a provisions storehouse, a bakery, a kitchen, a chapel, officer's quarters and the commandant's quarters and office. The water supply came from a centrally located well within the building. The attic floor was specifically designed to serve as a gundeck for artillery to fire out of the gunports that had been cleverly disguised as shuttered dormers.

For the expressed purpose of making the building fireproof heavy masonry bearing walls were employed on the interior and the floors were covered with flat stones set in mortar. In spite of the heavy masonry walls a remarkably free flow of space was created through the employment of unique expansive elliptical arches in the center of the main interior bearing walls.

The building has suffered only minor structural changes through its history. The British divided two of the largest rooms and relocated two front chimneys. They maintained the center entrance but filled the other two facade doorways with windows. They rebuilt the wooden roof with a steeper pitch and reduced the number of dormers on the facade to three. The entire roof was removed by the Americans in the War of 1812, and the present roof on the structure is that which was reconstructed by the Americans after the war in 1816. At that time the front doorway was changed to a Federal style sidelighted doorway and a columned portico was added in front of the center set of three bays. Three Federal style arched dormers were installed with the 1816 roof. A lighthouse was supported on this roof from 1823 to 1872.

The restoration of this building returned it to its appearance during the French era and was guided by the original plans of the architect de Lery which were discovered in Paris in the Archives of the Colonies in 1911.

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The large separate stone powder magazine extant at Fort Niagara was built by Captain Pouchot in 1757 at the time the French were expanding the fortifications in anticipation of armed conflict with the British. This building appears to be a simple one and a half story gable roof structure, but it contains a single large masonry barrel vault. The area above this vault and beneath the gable roof was a large "attic" filled with earth and rubble. Above this earthen fill logs were positioned to form a gable shaped roof. This unique design was meant to protect the powder magazine from a direct hit by cushioning and absorbing the blow without damage the vault itself. This large (50'x30') building's survival of numerous bombardments attests to the effectiveness of the design.

The stone bakehouse dating to 1762 is a unique building. The one story structure with a hip roof and a large center chimney is located at the south corner of the stone chateau. Captain Pouchot had constructed a long narrow bakehouse having a large oven area at its north end. This building survived the 1759 siege of the fort but accidentally burned in 1761. The present bakehouse consists of a stone structure attached to a large double-oven structure. It was built by the British in 1762 to replace the one destroyed on that site. The oven area on the north end is probably of French design. The building was restored by the U.S. Army in 1879 as an historic monument.

The provisions storehouse is a long narrow one story stone structure with a gable roof. It is located close under the earthen ramparts of the Dauphin Battery at a right angle to the powder magazine. It was built by the British on the site of a similarly dimensioned French building. During the British era prior to the War of 1812 there was a second story on this building. It was used as the storehouse to supply the entire system of forts on the upper Great Lakes. This building has been thoroughly reworked and now houses the administrative offices and orientation center for the museum.

The south redoubt built in 1770 is one of a pair of similarly designed stone fortifications constructed during the British occupation of the fort. They are positioned symmetrically within the south and north demi-bastions. Both are of square plan two stories high with an "attic" parapet wall surmounted by a heavy timber framework carrying a flared-eave hip roof raised above the parapet wall.

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The upper decks of these redoubts were meant to serve as gun batteries. These unique military structures were intended to serve as self contained fortifications which could command the area before the ramparts with a smaller force of men than would otherwise be required to man the ramparts themselves.

The south redoubt was also required to serve as a gatehouse and thus its lower level contains large arched openings front and back which straddle the roadway to the drawbridge entry. The south redoubt was restored, according to the original plans of its designer Capt. John Montrossor, including the reconstruction of the original pagoda styled timber roof with wooden gundeck shutters in 1931. The north redoubt which was constructed in 1771 immediately after the south was not used as a gatehouse and thus it does not have the large arched openings. This building was also restored with the reconstruction of its pagoda styled roof.

There is only one building within the fort that is neither an original building nor the reconstruction of an earlier building; this is the stone restroom building which was constructed at the time the stone chateau was restored. It is a one story hip roof structure unobtrusively located in an area between the bakehouse and the chateau. This building does not contribute to the significance of the historic landmark.

The lowland bordering the river below the fort's river wall does not contain any extant contributing historic structures but it is considered a contributing part of the landmark since it retains the physical characteristics which it possessed during the period of the fort's national significance. At present it is the site of the U.S. Coast Guard station house and a large metal boat house, neither of which contribute to the national landmark. Recent archaeological studies have indicated that below a capping fill, there are preserved strata of soil which pre-date the modern use of this land. The area has produced significant artifacts relating to the period of national significance, especially the 1783-1796 Holdover Period. Three zones of high archaeological sensitivity have been identified on this area called "The Bottoms."

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"The Bottoms" is known to have been the site of over fifty buildings of varied usage in the period of national significance. It contained: warehouses, taverns, commercial buildings, row-houses, docks, wharfs and boathouses. These were dependent upon but separate from the military garrison. An area of The Bottoms that has been identified as a site of Native American barracks has yielded numerous 18th century British and Native American artifacts. Strong evidence has recently been found for the existence of an "ash lens" relating to the destruction of this trader town in the War of 1812.

The level area in advance of the fort's earthwork defenses extending from the river to the lake contains several non-contributing buildings. This flat terrain contains the site of the final siege trench and assault battery of Sir William Johnson's successful assault on the fort in 1759. Also included is an area designated as the "1812 Cemetery" but which is a known burial ground for the fort established in the French era and continued in use through the 19th century. Two of the buildings on the area are historic but they do not contribute to the national landmark. These are: the 1872 Lighthouse, included in the National Register thematic designation of Great Lakes Lighthouses; and, the Quartermaster Building (1897) the oldest remaining building from the expanded 19th century military base outside the walls of the fort. There is also an 1897 non-contributing lightkeeper's house. In addition to these there are six other non-contributing structures on this area before the earthworks. They were part of the early 20th century military base.

In summary, none of the buildings in the area outside of the fortification walls are considered to be contributing to the national historic landmark, while all but one of the structures within the walls do contribute to the national landmark. The ramparts, their outworks, and the major related topographical features are considered to contribute to the national historic landmark.

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The strategic importance of a fort located at the mouth of the Niagara River was first recognized by the explorer LaSalle. The specific advantages of this point of land were mentioned by Father Hennepin in his account of the LaSalle expedition. He considered it naturally fortified with a safe haven for ships. LaSalle had a wooden stockaded fort constructed on the site in 1679, called Fort Conti. Later in 1687 Gov. Denonville built a much larger wooden stockaded fort on the same site. It was garrisoned with 100 men and then abandoned after a disastrous winter in which most of that garrison perished. The present fort was built on the site of the earlier two. No physical evidence of the earlier forts remains.

The fur trade wealth of the interior centered on the Great Lakes Basin. This trade funnelled along the Niagara River to the east following what was an established major route of travel in pre-contact days. Establishment of a fort at the river mouth controlled the river, the supply route to the interior, and intercepted the trade where it was most concentrated. It established a military force within the lands of the Seneca, the most hostile of the Iroquois Nation. Throughout the French era and later during the British occupation, this fort was the major supply depot serving the entire system of forts to the interior. Fort Niagara was a port of passage for all Europeans traveling the Niagara waterway to the interior. It enters into the accounts of much 18th century travel literature.

The siege of Fort Niagara and the related Battle of La Belle Famille south of the fort was a significant military victory for the British in the French and Indian War. The loss of Fort Niagara made it impossible for the more remote French forts to continue resistance; and thus, a vast area of French dominion in the Great Lakes through the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys came to an end with the surrender of the fort on July 25, 1759.

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The French military engineer Captain Pierre Pouchot who designed and supervised the construction of the expanded fortifications, which have survived to the present, was the commandant of Fort Niagara at the time of the British assault. He was caught by surprise with only a small garrison of 429 men when, on July 6, 1759, Colonel John Prideaux secretly landed 2800 regular British troops four miles east of the fort. Accompanying his was a force of 600 Native Americans under the charge of Sir William Johnson. This force would swell to 900 during the siege. About three quarters of a mile east of the fort along the Lake Ontario shore the British assault force was exposed to Fort Niagara's gun batteries. There began the excavation of a large trench-work approach which angled to avoid direct cannon fire as it inched closer to the fort's ramparts in a zig-zag pattern. The digging of this cover went on for over two weeks, during which time the French expended over 6,000 cannon shot. At three points along the trenching British cannon batteries were set up behind earthen embankments to fire at the ramparts and beyond. This eventually successful assault was a classic text book example of the Vauban type military tactics used in 18th century European warfare. It is the best example of such tactics in American military history. The location of the final and most destructive assault battery in this siege is known, and is included within the boundary of the national landmark as an important contributing feature.

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Fort Niagara was the site of historic events of far ranging influence. At the time when the "Pontiac Conspiracy" of organized intertribal opposition posed a severe threat to British interests, Fort Niagara became the site of the largest gathering of Native American tribal leaders. Over 1700 individuals representing tribes from Nova Scotia to the Mississippi Valley were encamped outside the walls of Fort Niagara for over a month in 1764. During this time Sir William Johnson negotiated a series of treaties with them which broke the conspiracy and terminated their warfare against the colonies.

During the American Revolution Fort Niagara was a stronghold base of operations for the extensive terrorist raids of the so-called "Border Wars of the Revolution." Butler's Rangers and Joseph Brant's Mohawks carried out raids on the western settlements of New York and Pennsylvania, including the Cherry Valley Massacre in central New York and the Wyoming Valley Massacre in Pennsylvania. Numerous white captives were marched over 200 miles through the wilderness back to Fort Niagara. Some of these raiding parties out of Fort Niagara ranged within two days travel from the City of Philadelphia.

After the Revolutionary War Fort Niagara was retained by the British, who were reluctant to relinquish what had become the seat of government of a vast territory. The British used the fort to exercise control over the Senecas and the American settlers until 1796 when they were specifically required to vacate the fort by the terms of the Jay Treaty. Throughout this period, 1783 - 1796, termed the "Holdover Period," Fort Niagara effectively prevented American settlement west of central New York, while it simultaneously acted as a port of exit for tens of thousands of United Empire Loyalists who had been offered lands in what is now the Province of Ontario, Canada.

Fort Niagara was an important military post in the War of 1812 which ravaged the Niagara Frontier. The Niagara Campaign included the bloodiest battles of that war. Fort Niagara was captured by the British in 1813 and was occupied by them until 1815 when it was handed over to the Americans. It was the only fort on the frontier not to be destroyed. Shortly after the war the fort was neglected by the Americans.

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With the construction of the Erie Canal, the Niagara River ceased to be a major shipping route and thus the strategic value of this fort's control over the river was diminished. The major national significance of the fort ended with the War of 1812. No further military engagements occurred after that time although the fort continued to be part of an active military base for another century and a half. The period of national significance for this National Historic Landmark is established as extending from 1726, when the French refocused their activity on the mouth of the river in constructing the extant stone chateau, to 1816 when the fort was repaired at the end of the War of 1812.

Fort Niagara contains the most complete collection of 18th century military architecture in the United States. This includes the 1725 stone chateau designed and personally supervised in its construction by the foremost architect of New France, Chaussegros de Lery. The building is uniquely designed to suit the physical site, the military purpose and the cultural conditions for which it was built. The original plans of this building have been preserved in Paris in the Archives of the Colonies. De Lery's own comments on his intentions in the design have also survived. This building is the oldest, the largest and the central structure of Fort Niagara; and it is the oldest representative of French colonial power in what is now the United States.

The 1757 powder magazine designed by the French military engineer Pouchot is a unique piece of architecture both in its structure and its size. It is the largest 18th century powder magazine to have survived, measuring 30' x 50'. The extraordinary size of the magazine is related to the supply function of Fort Niagara. The unique structure is described in Item 7.

The bakehouse rebuilt by the British in 1762 is a unique special purpose piece of architecture containing an enormous double oven structure of French design. No other military bakehouse of this capacity is known to have survived from the 18th century.

The design of the fortifications has been maintained along the same lines from their original construction by Pouchot in 1756 to the present.

(see continuation sheet 8-5)

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The two stone redoubts were designed by the important prolific British military engineer Capt. John Montessoro. These structures are the prime representatives of the British occupation of the fort. Their design displays the then fashionable combination of classical with Chinese elements. The pagoda styled roofs relate them to the Chinese Chippendale style of furniture popular at that time. These self-contained strongholds built in 1770 and 1771 are unlike any other surviving structures and are an epitome of British military design: massive and formidable with a delicacy of detail.

Numerous other structures, mostly of log or frame construction, were located inside and outside the walls of Fort Niagara in the period of national significance, 1726-1816. Archaeological explorations since the time of the fort's restoration have produced many important artifacts which have contributed to the interpretation of the landmark with information that was nowhere else available. Fort Niagara is also significant as the site of two earlier wooden French forts of the late 17th century.

Fort Niagara has become the subject of archaeological excavations since 1979. In addition to those areas within the walls of the fort, areas of archaeological sensitivity and proven resources have been identified on the Coast Guard land termed "The Bottoms." This area was the scene of a unique para-military dockside activity related to but different from the military operations of the fort. The archaeological sites here have the potential to yield information about a cultural phenomenon that would otherwise remain obscure.

The Bottoms was the site of archaeological test excavations in 1983 in which numerous artifacts dating to the period of national significance were found. A relatively undisturbed surface was discovered beneath a clay capping. The report of this 1983 exploration concludes:

"The physical setting of The Bottoms, a landmark in its own right, underscores the inseparability of its own history from that of adjacent Old Fort Niagara. And in a wider context, the large reserve of significant material vestiges on the Coast Guard land from several phases of history will be of instrumental value in understanding the related histories of Fort

(See continuation sheet 8-6)

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George, Fort Ontario, Fort Michilimackinac, Crown Point and the civilian settlements that developed around all these fortifications."

The major topographical features of this triangular point of land that are also elements integral to the design of the fortifications (including: the level terrain before the earthworks, the protected harbor bottoms, and the rocky shoals along the lake shore,) are all contributing factors to the national historic landmark and to the interpretation of this landmark.

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Boundary Description

Beginning at a point A where the line of the south curb of Scott Road intersects the centerline of the roadway which leads to the boat launching area at the Niagara River, and proceeding southwesterly along the centerline of this roadway below the "1812 Cemetery" and along a continuation of this centerline to its intersection at a point B with a line 200 feet offshore and parallel to the mean low waterline of the Niagara River bank, proceeding along that line in a generally northwesterly direction to its intersection with the 6 foot depth contour of the river channel at the U.S. Coast Guard Station, point C, and following this 6 foot depth contour past the extremity of the bottomland to the intersection of this contour line with a line 300 feet offshore and parallel to the mean low waterline of Lake Ontario at a point D east of the headland where the river and the lake meet, proceeding east northeasterly along this line parallel to the lake shore to a point E, the intersection of the offshore line with a line extending due north from point A, and proceeding due south along this line to point A, the place of beginning.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary begins at the easternmost point of the burial grounds that were established during the French era and maintained through the British and American eras, and follows a road which descends to the edge of the Niagara River. This road follows the contours of a natural ravine which is indicated as a topographical feature on maps from the 18th century to the present. This is one of the few areas where the river is accessible from the high bank. The boundary then follows the riverbank downstream 200 feet offshore in order to include an area of riverbank erosion that has been proven to be as important in archaeological resources from the period of national significance and to include the site of historic dockside activity near "The Bottoms." The 6 foot depth contour of the river is followed around "The Bottoms" since this line defines the edge of a steep underwater channel. A 300 foot area off the lake shore is included to contain an area of rocky shoals on the lakeside of the fort that were considered to be part of the design of the defenses in 1726. Close to the shore but now underwater is the foundation of a circular gun battery. The boundary is continued eastward to include a ravine in the lakeside bluff which has been a constant feature throughout the period of national significance until the present. This ravine is known to mark the location of the final siege battery of 1759 and the terminus of the tactical trenching which advanced to this point under constant bombardment from the fort. This battery was the most damaging to the fort and is directly related to the surrender of Fort Niagara and the end of the French era. The north-south line of convenience terminates the eastern boundary at a point where the high bluff of the lake shore has been artificially graded down in conjunction with the establishment of a bathing beach. West of this north-south line is included the level terrain before the fort's outworks, an area that was maintained as a "prairie" in the design of the fortifications. It was on this cleared level land that much of the known activity outside the walls of the fort took place, including the massive gathering of tribal leaders to meet with Sir William Johnson. Also included in this area is part of the historic military road which led from the fort to the Niagara Portage.

The restored Old Fort Niagara and related surroundings included within the boundary contain approximately 30 acres.

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List of Maps and Illustrations:

- Fig. 1 View of Fort Niagara c.1790.
(showing numerous buildings on "The Bottoms")
- Fig. 2 Aerial view of Fort Niagara and the U.S. Coast
Guard Station c.1970.
- Fig. 3 French 1756 map of Fort Niagara showing the
fortifications and the cleared prairie before
the earthworks.
- Fig. 4 British 1759 map of Fort Niagara showing the
siege trenches and gun batteries.
- Fig. 5 Fort Niagara State Park 1984.
- Fig. 6 Town of Porter Tax Map 1972.
(shaded area of State Park indicates area of
National Historic Landmark.)
- Fig. 7 Sketch map

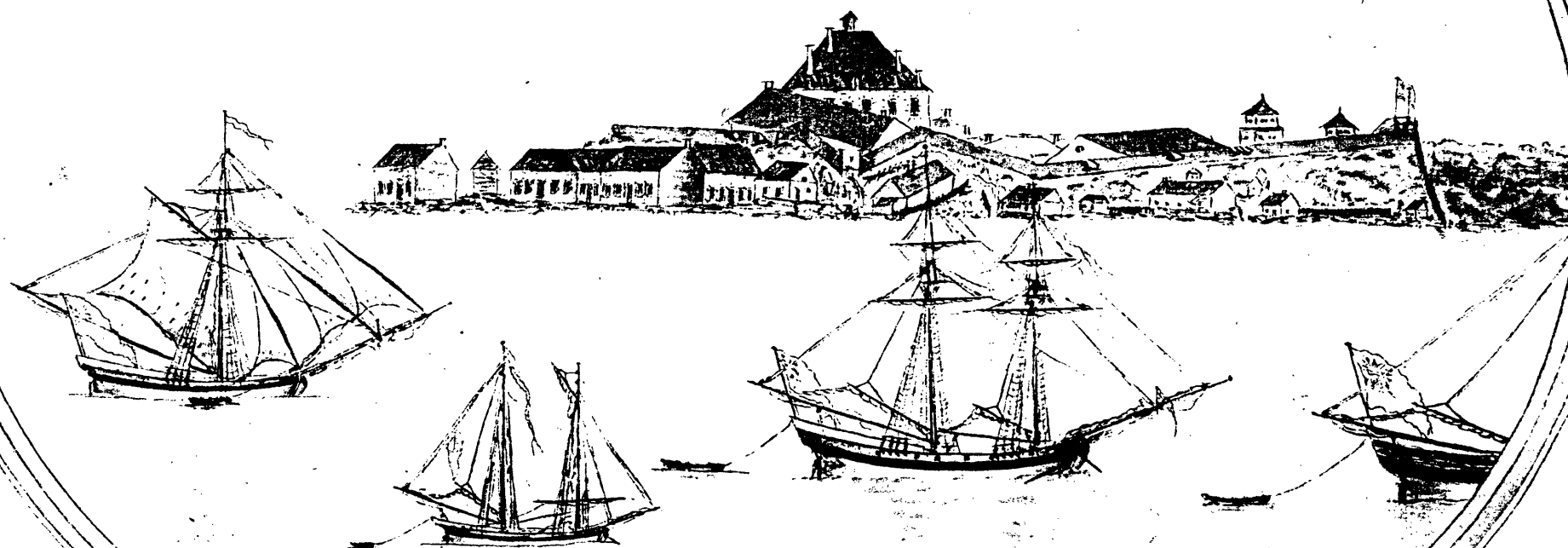


Fig.1 View of Fort
Niagara c.1790.
(showing numerous build-
ings on "The Bottoms.")

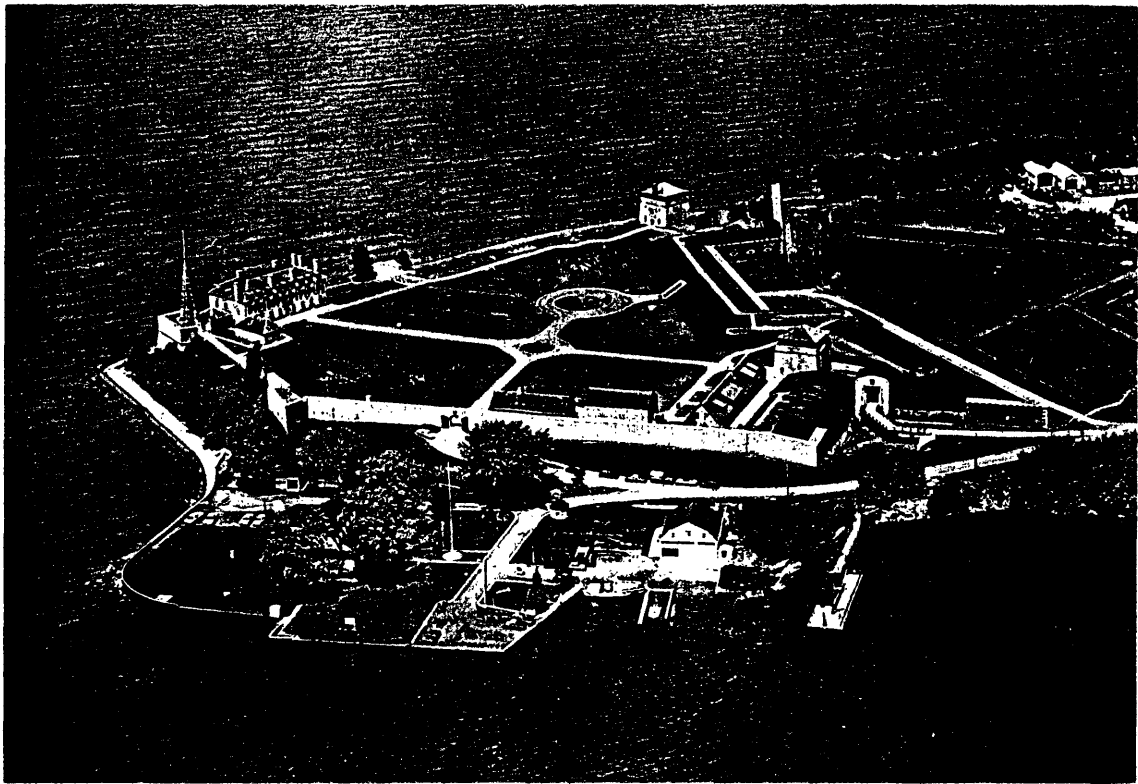
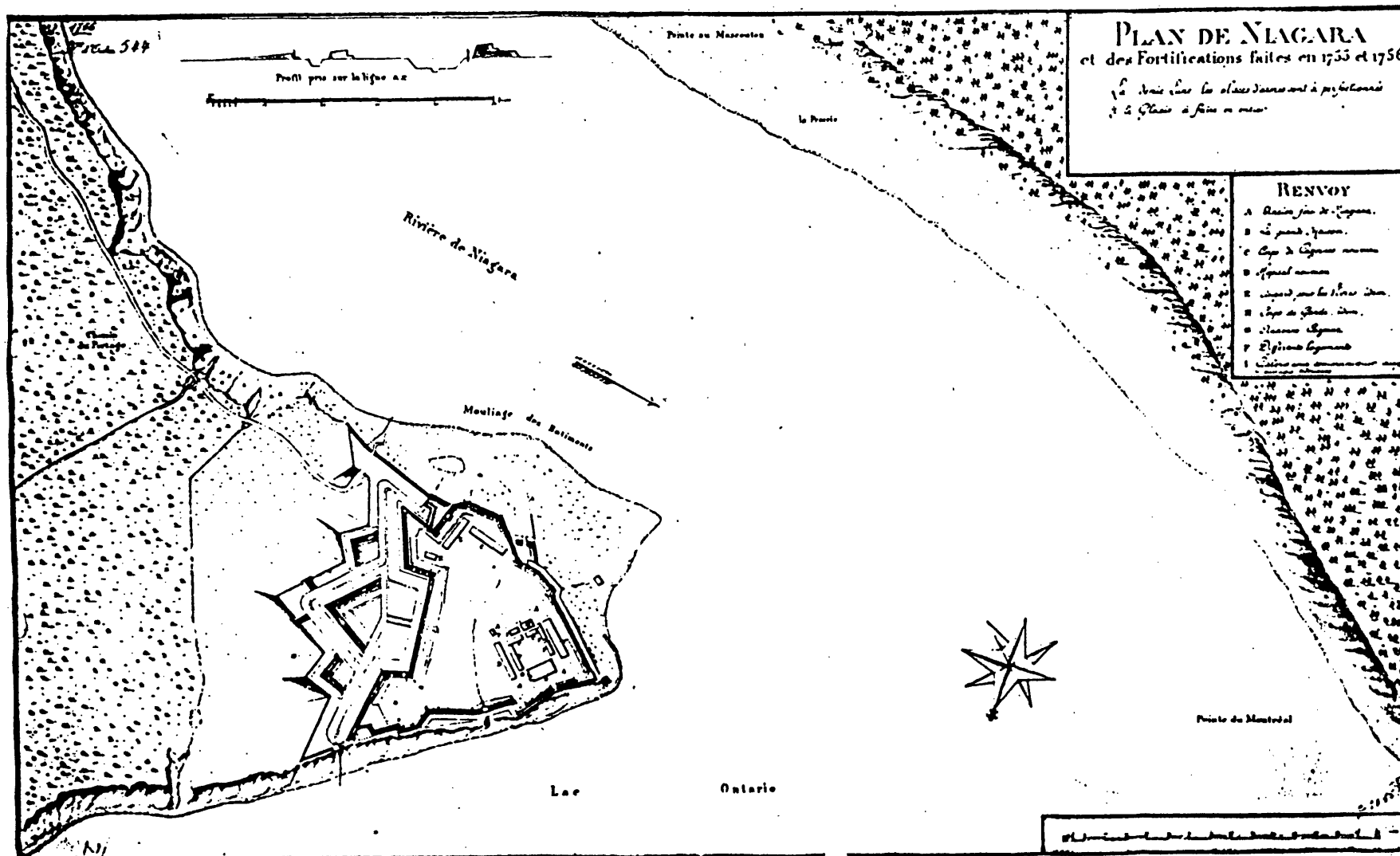


Fig. 2 Aerial view of
Fort Niagara &
U.S. Coast Guard
Station c.1970.



Fort Niagara, New York (1679, 1755). François Pouchot, engineer. Plan (1756); facsimile. Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

Fig. 3 French 1756 Map
of Fort Niagara.
(showing fortifications
& prairie before the
earthworks.)

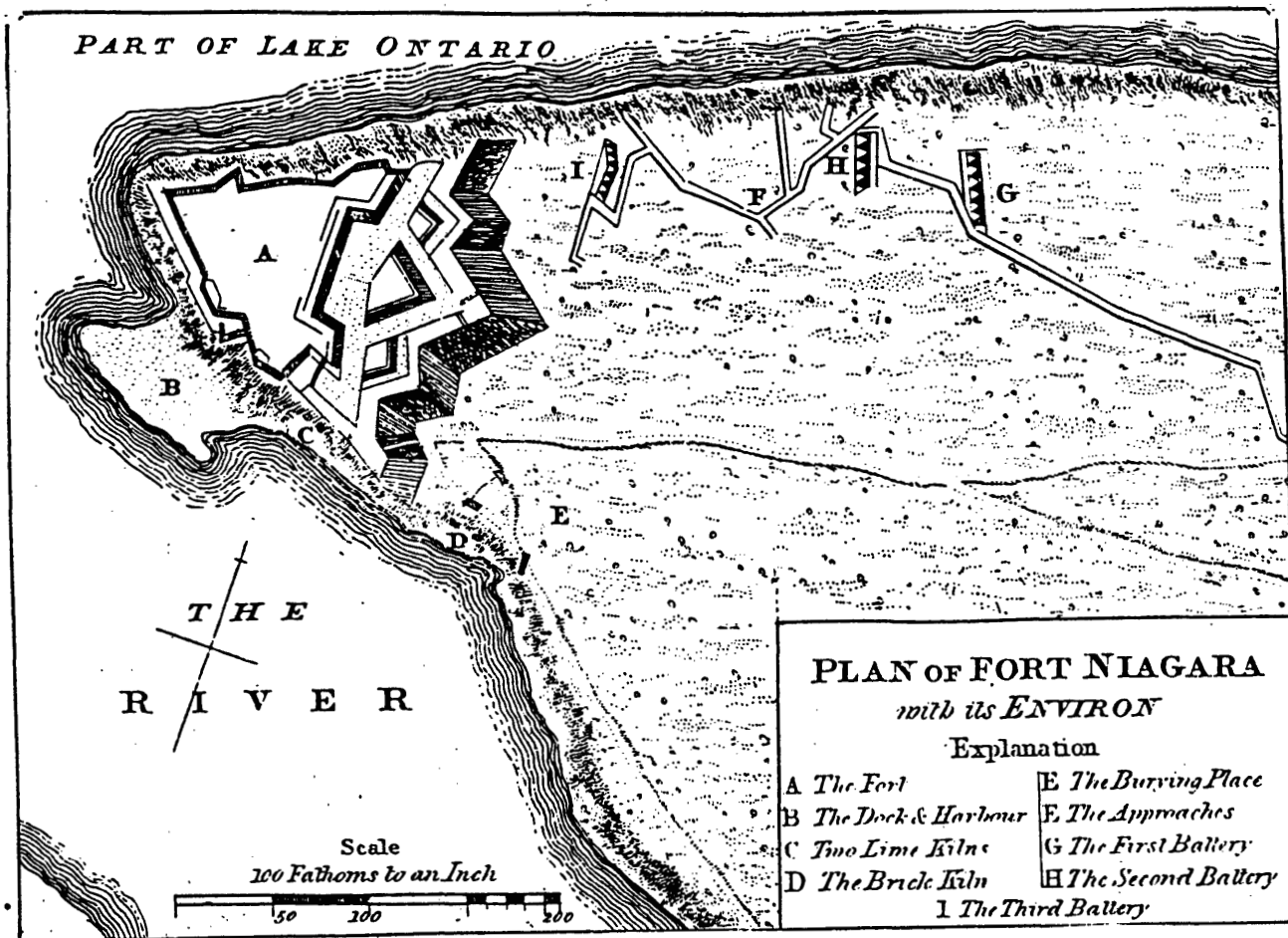
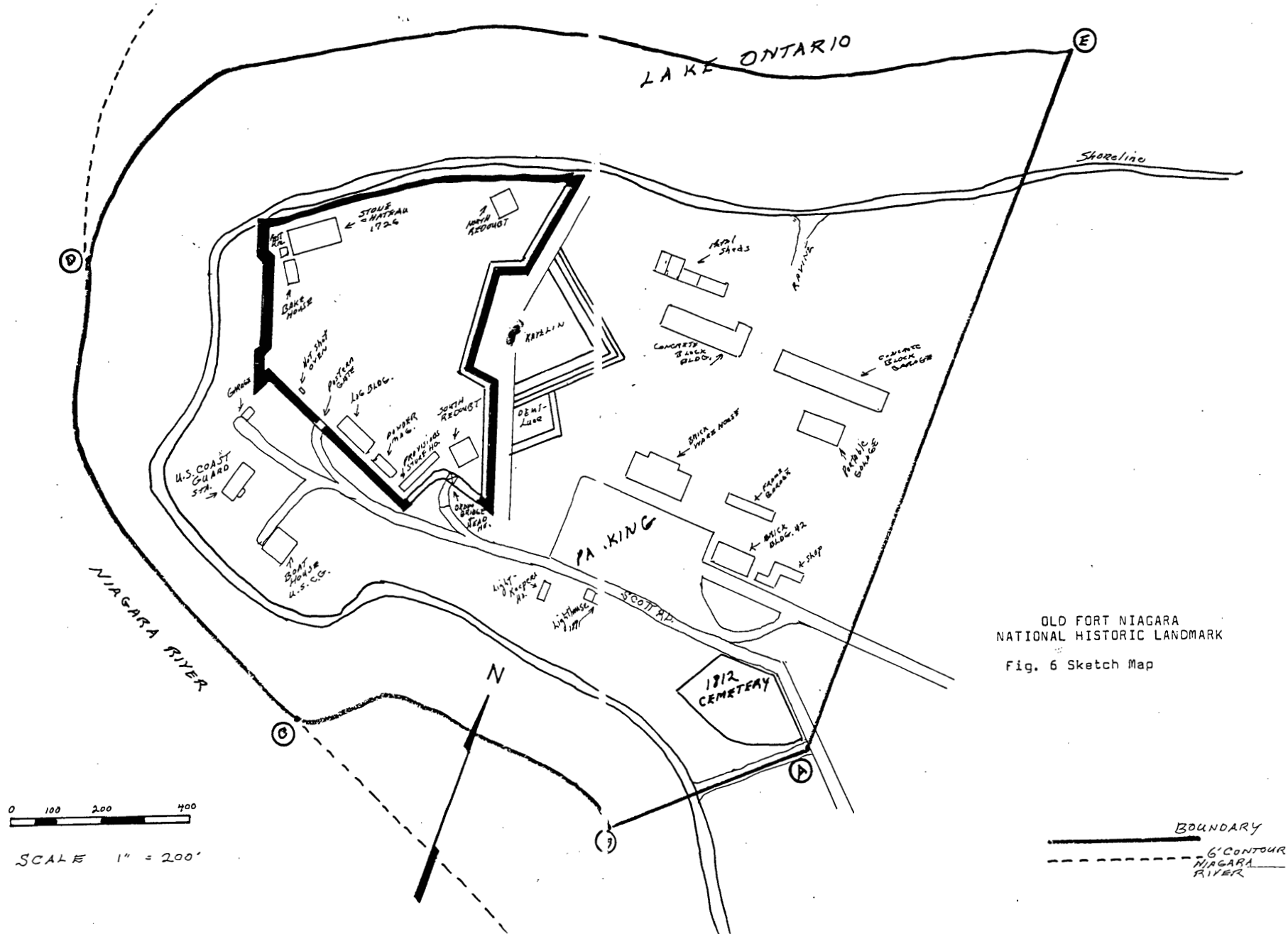
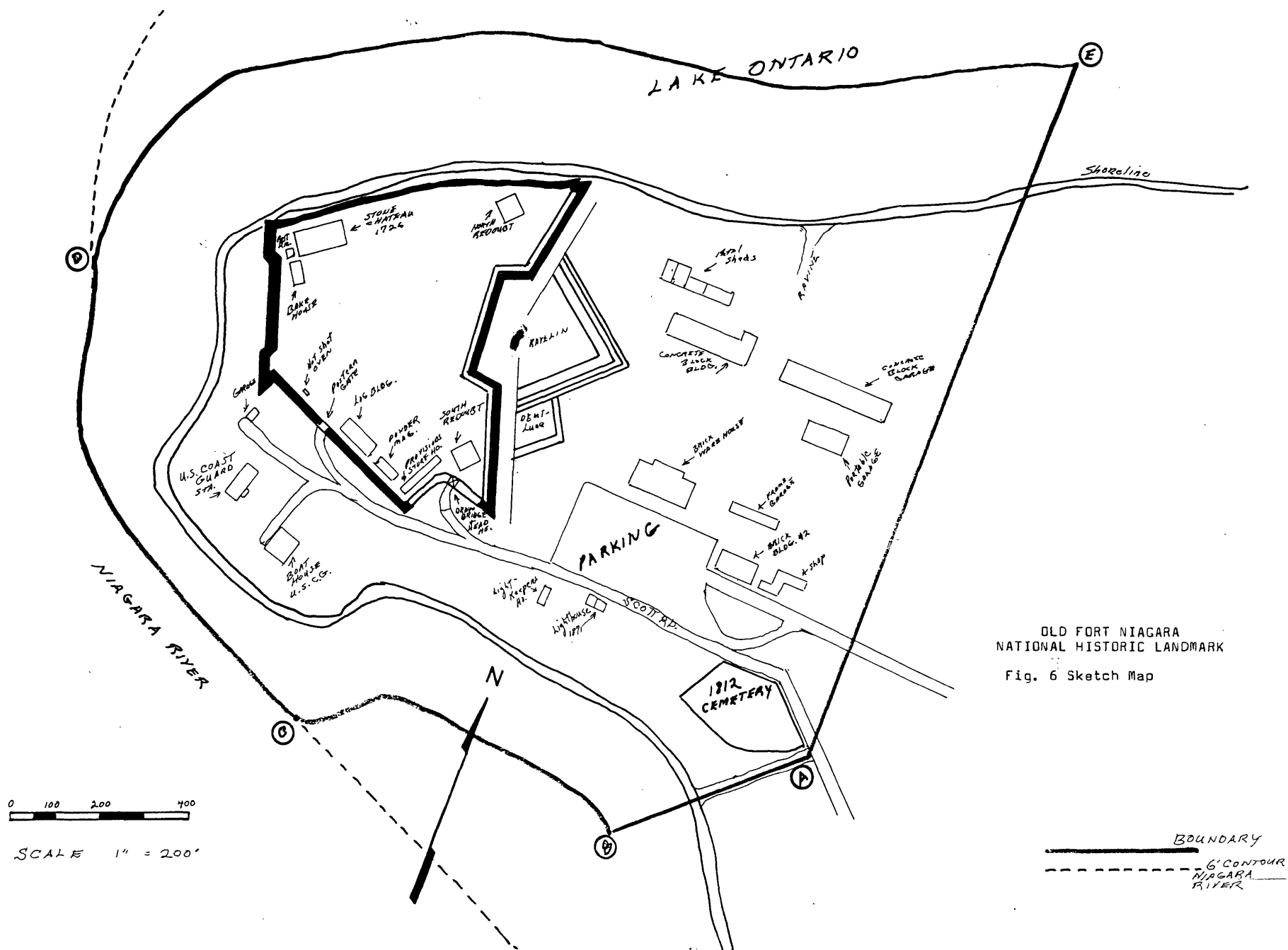


Fig. 4 British 1759 Map
of Fort Niagara.
(showing the siege
trenches and gun
batteries.)





Township & Lot Line
 Property Line
 International Boundary Line
 State Highway
 County Road
 Town Highway
 See Town of Porter Tax Maps for details of subdivisions & congested areas.

Fig. 15 Town of Porter
TAX MAP

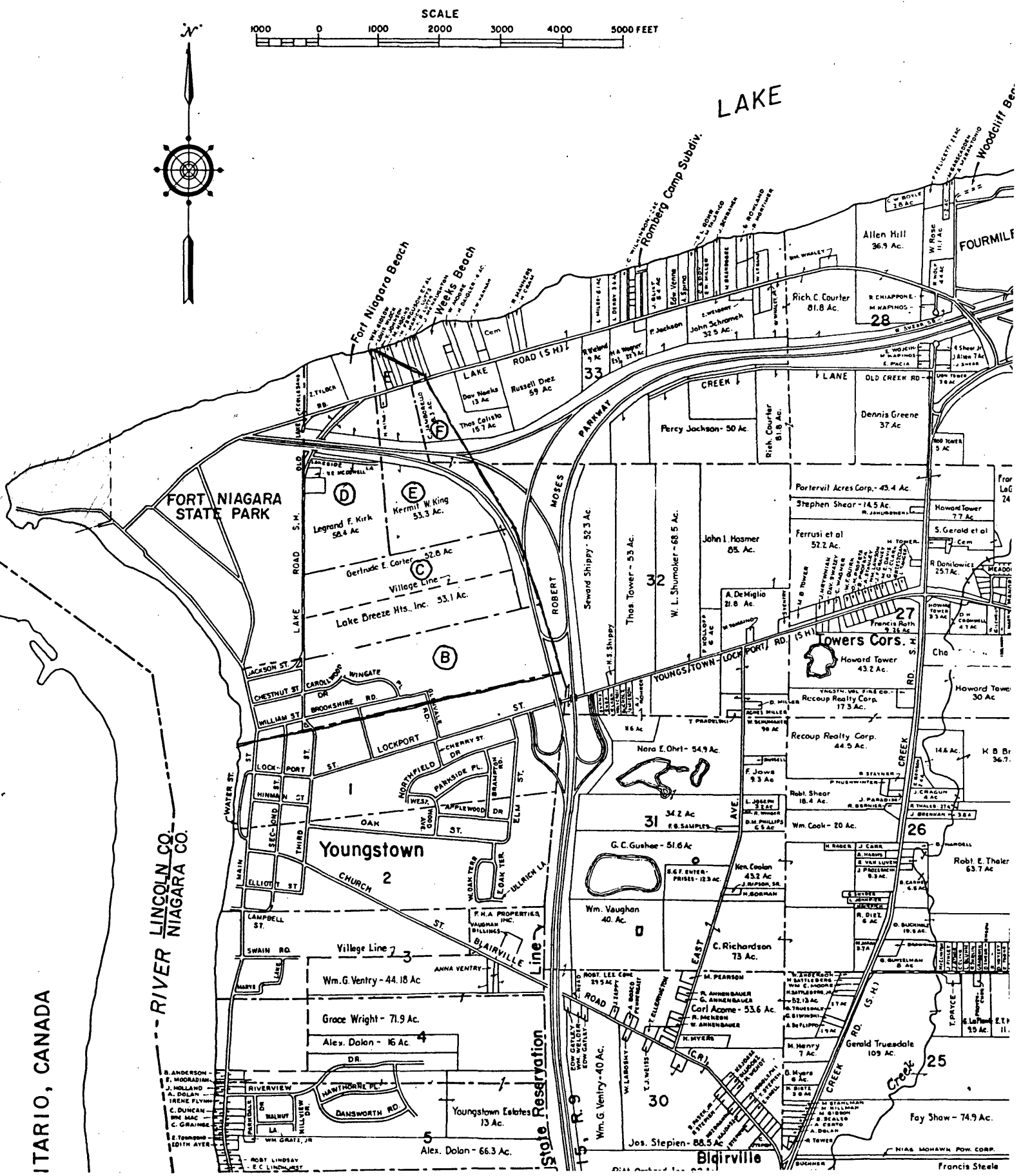


Fig.16
Map of Fort Niagara State
Park in 1984.

FORT NIAGARA STATE PARK

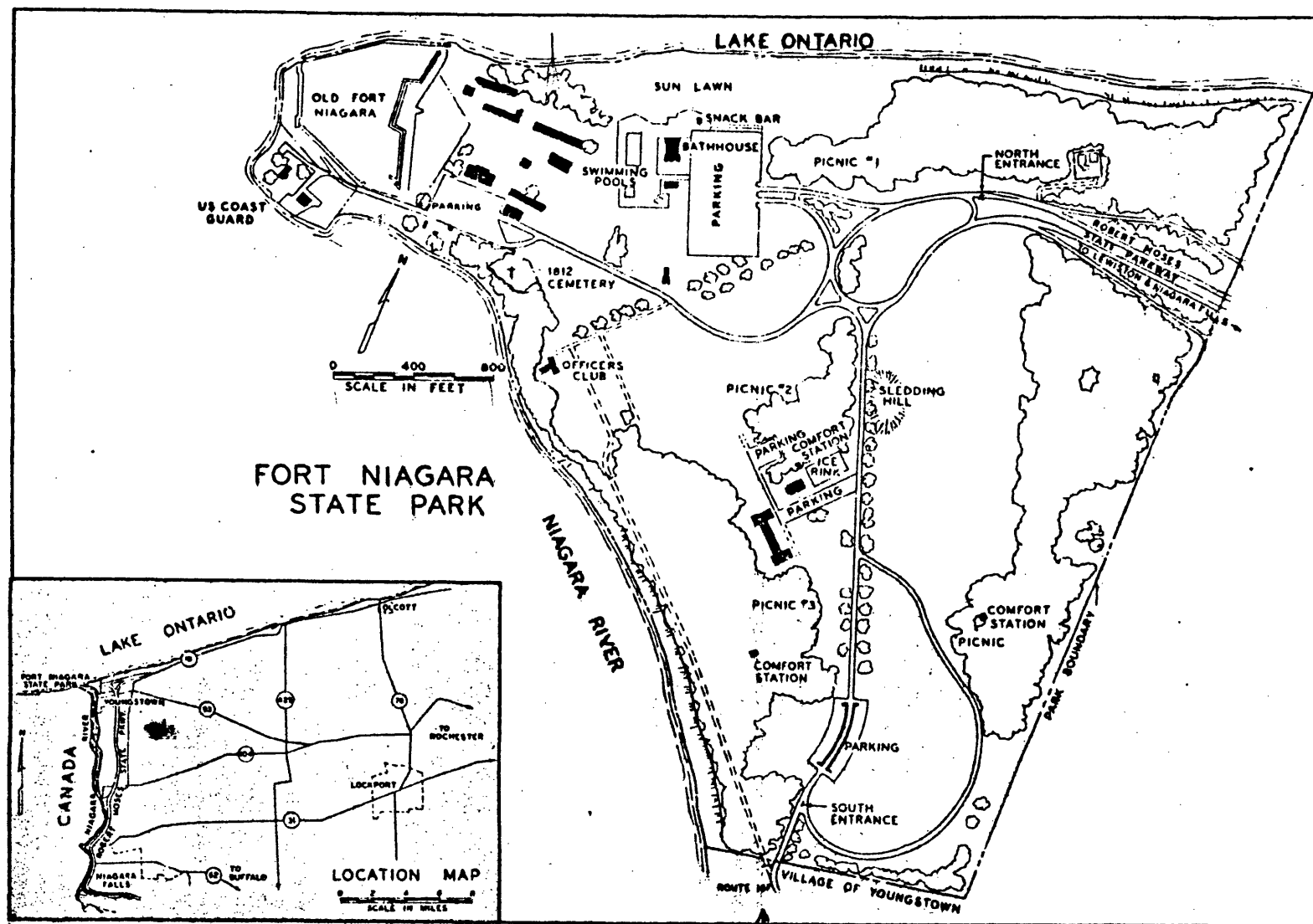
This 284 acre park is located just north of the Village of Youngstown where the Niagara River empties into Lake Ontario. Picturesque views from well-shaded picnic groves offer water scenes of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario dotted with sailboats. Other park facilities include play areas, a snack bar and a 50 meter swimming pool-bathhouse complex protected by well-trained lifeguards.

Within the park is Old Fort Niagara. Built by the French in 1679 and captured by the British in 1759 and 1813, it has been extensively restored to its original state. Among the many attractions to be viewed are: 53 mounted cannons, shell-proof casement tunnels, medieval type drawbridge, a fortified French Castle built in 1726, the "haunted" well of the castle, original pre-Revolutionary War stone buildings and masonry fortifications, with bastions, redoubts, moats and stockades. Military pageantry is displayed during the summer months with authentically costumed personnel, adding color to this historic shrine of American history.

Adjacent to the Fort is a well-maintained 1812 Cemetery. The original tombstones remain and the inscriptions are weathered but they are still readable.

Overlooking the Niagara River, the former Officers' Club hall is available for wedding receptions, dances, dinners, etc., on a rental basis.

NIAGARA FRONTIER STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Niagara Reservation
Niagara Falls, NY 14303



NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

OLD FORT NIAGARA (Additional Documentation)

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: OLD FORT NIAGARA (Additional Documentation)

Other Name/Site Number: Fort Conde (Fort Conti), Fort Denonville,
Fort Niagara

2. LOCATION

Street & Number:



ADDENDUM TO EXISTING STUDY
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: X

City/Town: Youngstown

Vicinity: _____

State: NY

County: Niagara

Code: 063

Zip Code: 14174-0169

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: _____

Public-Local: _____

Public-State: X

Public-Federal: _____

Category of Property

Building(s): _____

District: _____

Site: X

Structure: _____

Object: _____

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

_____ buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National
Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

____ Entered in the National Register _____
____ Determined eligible for the _____
____ National Register _____
____ Determined not eligible for the _____
____ National Register _____
____ Removed from the National Register _____
____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

OLD FORT NIAGARA (Additional Documentation)

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Defense
Commerce/Trade

Sub: Fortification/Military Facility
Trade (Archeology)

Current: Recreation and Culture

Sub: Museum/Outdoor Recreation

7. DESCRIPTION**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:****MATERIALS:**

Foundation:

Walls:

Roof:

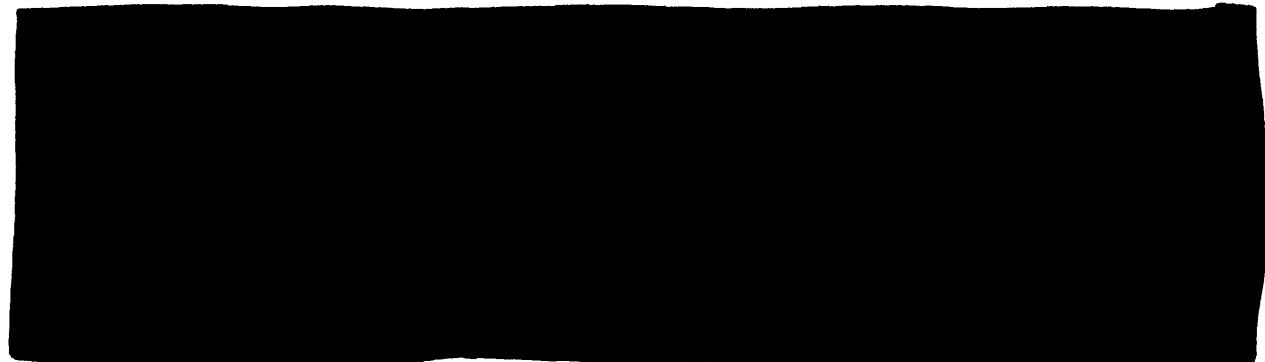
Other:

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Page 4****Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

Unless otherwise cited, information in this section is abstracted from Dunnigan and Scott (1991) and Scott (1991).

PROPERTY LOCATION AND HISTORY

7.6-7.11). Archeological deposits and standing structures located in this area have yielded, and possess the potential to further yield, information of national significance about relations between Indian people and Europeans during the Historic Contact period.



what became one of the most critically important strategic lines of trade and communication in North America during the Historic Contact period.

Numerous studies have surveyed the history of European occupation at Fort Niagara (e.g., Dunnigan 1986, 1987, and 1989; Dunnigan and Scott 1991; Howard 1968; Severance 1917). Archeological investigations conducted in and around Old Fort Niagara, for their part, show that Indian people had been living in the region at various times for more than 10,000 years when Samuel de Champlain and other French colonists first became aware of the area during the early 1600s. Although scholars continue to argue over the identities of Niagagaregas or Onguiarahronons, Kakouagogas or Kahkwes, Wenros, and other poorly known historic Niagara Frontier Indian communities mentioned in regional maps and other documents, most agree that the locale is situated in what by the 1640s was widely regarded as Neutral Indian territory (e.g., Pendergast 1991 and n.d.; White 1968, 1971, 1978a, and 1978b).

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No evidence of large 17th-century Indian town sites has yet been found in or around the immediate vicinity of Old Fort Niagara. These findings corroborate written records indicating that neither the Neutrals, nor Senecas, conquering and claiming their country in 1651, had erected anything more elaborate than small hunting, fishing, or foraging camps at the mouth of the Niagara River by the time French explorer Rene-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle penned the earliest surviving eyewitness account of the place in 1678.

Exploiting a brief thaw in relations with the Iroquois, La Salle received permission from the Governor of New France to explore Indian country to the west of the St. Lawrence Valley. Interested in extending French power as well as trade, La Salle erected small fortified posts at strategic locales along his route. Dispatching a small advance party to erect a post below Niagara Falls for the storage of supplies needed in the construction of a ship to explore Lake Erie, La Salle constructed his main base near the head of the St. Lawrence. Located at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, La Salle named the establishment Fort Frontenac after New France's Governor.

La Salle ordered construction of a small wooden fort at the mouth of the Niagara to serve as a secure link with Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Valley as his men worked on their ship on the shore of Lake Erie during the winter of 1678-1679. Naming the post Fort Conde (also known as Fort Conti), La Salle left a small garrison behind to guard supplies and maintain communications with Fort Frontenac as he sailed westward on the new vessel, christened the "Griffon," the following spring. Fort Conde did not last out the year. Whether by accident or design, the fort burned down soon after La Salle departed and was not rebuilt.

The mouth of the Niagara River next became a focal point of French interest when war again broke out with the Senecas during the mid-1680s. A new Governor of New France, named Jacques-Rene de Brisay, Marquis de Denonville, led a mixed force of French and Indian troops into the Seneca heartland along the Genesee Valley during the early summer of 1687. Forcing the Senecas to burn their settlements in front of his army, Denonville took his force to the mouth of the Niagara. Displeased by his failure to do more than pillage the smoldering remains of the Seneca towns, Denonville built a new post to dominate his enemies, secure the Niagara portage, and discourage intervention by English New Yorkers allied with the Senecas.

Working through the summer, Denonville's troops erected a new wooden stockade, named after their commander, on or near the earlier site of Fort Conde. Leaving a garrison of 100 men under the command of Captain Pierre de Troyes behind, Denonville then led the rest of his army back to Montreal before winter set in. Once again, a French garrison found itself isolated at the mouth of the Niagara River. This time, the garrison also was surrounded by Seneca people resenting this unsolicited and unwelcome intrusion into their territory.

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Cut off by Senecas besieging the fort and unable to secure fresh provisions, the small, beleaguered garrison was ravaged by disease and starvation. By spring, only 12 members of the garrison remained alive. A passing group of Miami Indians helped three of the survivors take a plea for assistance to Montreal. Although a force soon relieved the post, its remoteness and an anticipated new war with the English (King William's War, 1689-1697) compelled Denonville to order his troops to dismantle the fort's stockade and abandon the locale in September 1688.

French traders tried to regain access to the strategic Niagara communication route after the Senecas and their Iroquois League confederates made a separate peace with the French in 1701. One of these men, a skillful frontier diplomat named Louis-Thomas Chabert de Joncaire, finally succeeded in obtaining Seneca permission to establish a trading post on the banks of the Niagara River, several miles south of the river mouth, in or about 1720.

Intact archeological remains associated with Joncaire's post survive [REDACTED]

Unlike his predecessors, who barricaded themselves up behind fortified walls, Joncaire mingled openly with his Indian neighbors. Speaking Indian languages and respecting their customs, he and other "*Captaines des Sauvages*" played vital roles in maintaining French influence along the colonial Canadian frontier.

Niagara assumed increased importance in French eyes after they learned that British authorities planned to establish a post at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Fearing that the British would use such a post to draw away their trade, French officials petitioned the Onondagas for permission to build a more substantial installation at the former site of forts Conde and Denonville in 1726. Overriding Seneca objections, the Onondagas complied with the French request. One year later, the British built their post at the mouth of the Oswego River.

The French quickly moved to take full advantage of their opportunity to secure their hold over the strategic Niagara River corridor. French authorities immediately dispatched the colony's chief engineer, a man named Gaspard Chaussegros de Lery, to design and oversee construction of the new post at the mouth of the river. At Niagara, Joncaire worked to allay Seneca misgivings by assuring them that the new post would be a "House of Peace" whose primary purpose would be trade and protection of French allies. De Lery craftily surrounded the post with the type of modest wooden stockade commonly seen at frontier posts. The building constructed within this stockade, a two-story structure known as "The Castle," was in reality a stone citadel designed to be impregnable to Indian attack.

The French named the post Fort Niagara. It soon became a vital link in a chain of forts stretching across the Great Lakes to the Mississippi. Fort Niagara's strategic position, astride perhaps the most strategically-placed "transportation breaks" along this

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chain, soon made the post one of the most important trade entrepôts in the Northeast. Seneca people eagerly took advantage of trade opportunities presented by the post. Building substantial settlements around Joncaire's nearby trading post, Senecas interposed themselves as middlemen between Indians and Frenchmen trading at the fort and worked as porters carrying goods on the portage around Niagara Falls.

Senecas and Frenchmen generally lived peacefully, if uneasily, with one another at both places for the next 30 years. French blacksmiths at the fort mended Seneca firearms while post officers traded or made gifts of ironwares, ceramics, glass beads, and other European imports to Seneca allies. Although French engineers strengthened Fort Niagara's defenses from time to time, post garrisons relied more on their Seneca friends than their walls for protection. The Senecas belonged to the militarily powerful Iroquois League of Five Nations. Like other members of the Iroquois League, the Senecas were politically linked to the British through their Covenant Chain alliance. All Iroquois nations also observed the terms of the 1701 Montreal Treaty requiring them to remain neutral in all conflicts between France and Great Britain. Senecas worked to take full advantage of their unique position as powerful neutrals maintaining friendship with often mutually hostile French and British rivals.

Neutrality became increasingly difficult as Seneca people and fort personnel formed close economic, political, and social bonds. Linked by marriage, friendship, and mutual interest, Seneca warriors joined French detachments raiding the New York frontier during King George's War from 1744 to 1748. Farther east, Mohawks, closely linked with the New York government, fought alongside British troops in the struggle. Unwilling to fully draw the Iroquois into the conflict, both combatants allowed the Iroquois to maintain their formal stance of neutrality.

Substantial numbers of Senecas came to the aid of their French allies when war again broke out with Great Britain in 1755. Seneca scouts warned the French of a British army gathering at Oswego during the summer of 1755 to attack Fort Niagara. Other Senecas brought news that delays prevented the army from marching on Niagara before the onset of cold weather put an end to all offensive operations on the Lake.

Aware that British disorganization was the only thing that saved the poorly defended post, French authorities quickly dispatched a battalion of troops under the command of Captain Pierre Pouchot to bolster Fort Niagara's defenses. Arriving in the fall of 1755, Pouchot and his men soon transformed the simple palisaded frontier post into a classic example of an 18th-century European stone and earthen-walled fortress.

Pouchot's men erected sloping earthworks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] New barracks and other buildings were erected

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within newly constructed innerworks. Dismantling the old wooden palisade, they converted the "House of Peace" and the small cluster of buildings built around it in earlier years into the post's headquarter's area.

A single drawbridge gate, christened "Gate of the Five Nations," gave access to the post from the landward side. Another small gate led from the riverfront wall down to a "cab[in] de Savages" and other buildings along the landing at "The Bottoms" on the Niagara River. Altogether, these improvements resulted in an eightfold increase in the post's total area and transformed Fort Niagara from a small frontier outpost into a powerful bastion.

Fort Niagara soon became a major base sustaining Indians supporting their French allies against the British. Visiting Indian diplomats sometimes stayed at the cabin at "The Bottoms." Barracks constructed beyond fort walls also were occasionally used to house visiting Indian people. Most other visiting Mississauga, Ottawa, and other Indian warriors fighting alongside the French erected temporary camps for themselves and their families just east of the post's outerworks. Many hundreds of people sometimes resided in these camps as Indians met with their French allies during formal conferences at the fort.

The number of camp occupants gradually declined as the war wore on. Disheartened by French defeats, and discouraged by the increasing inability of the French to provide provisions to them and their families, entire Indian nations began to abandon their allies.

Not all Indians deserted the French. Several Senecas, led by a chief named Kaendae, for example, were among the fort's defenders when a British army, consisting of 2,500 British soldiers and 1,000 Iroquois warriors, commanded by Sir William Johnson following the death of the original British commander finally took Fort Niagara during the summer of 1759. Unwilling to accept British rule following the final defeat of France's American armies in 1760, large numbers of Seneca warriors joined other former French Great Lake Indian allies in a war against the British occupiers known as Pontiac's War in 1763. On September 14, 1763, a substantial force of Senecas destroyed a convoy and two companies of British troops upriver from Fort Niagara at Devil's Hole. Although they did not directly lay siege to Fort Niagara, Seneca warriors effectively cut the post off from the west.

Fort Niagara became a staging area for operations to the westward when a large British army under the command of Major General John Bradstreet arrived at the post during the spring of 1764. Supported by this powerful army, Sir William Johnson, now Crown Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Department, quickly convinced the Senecas and their neighbors to make peace at the fort. Pushing farther westward, Bradstreet's army forced Western Great Lakes Indians to conclude similar treaties with the British.

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Fort Niagara again became a focal point for frontier warfare when Great Britain went to war with her American colonies in 1775. Substantial numbers of Senecas, Mohawks, and other Iroquois people siding with their former British adversaries against the colonists found supplies and support at the fort. As in previous wars, Fort Niagara became a base for Indian parties raiding the New York and Pennsylvania frontier. Expeditions led by men like Joseph Brant, a Mohawk Indian protege of Johnson's holding a commission in the British army, devastated outlying American settlements throughout the war. Their operations and other Indian affairs were administered by British Indian Department officials working out of headquarters located in several buildings at "The Bottoms."

Increasing numbers of Indian refugees and their captives took shelter in temporary camps just beyond fort walls as Iroquois people were drawn into the war. Almost 200 Mohawk Indian Loyalists, led by Joseph and Molly Brant, moved to Fort Niagara after rebels forced them from their Mohawk Valley homes during the first years of the war. They were joined by more than 2,000 Seneca, Cayuga, and Onondaga people escaping from American armies burning their towns in 1779. Many of these, and other Indian refugees camping around the fort, resettled in Canada after the war ended in 1783. Others moved to Tonawanda, Cattaraugus, and other western New York Seneca communities. Still others settled nearby on what today is the Tuscarora Indian Reservation.

The British did not immediately give up Fort Niagara or other Great Lake posts when the war ended. Maintaining their headquarters at the post, the British Indian Department continued to support Miami, Shawnee, and other Indians struggling against American expansion into the Ohio Valley. British negotiators finally gave up Fort Niagara and the other Great Lake posts under the terms of the 1794 Jay Treaty demarcating the United States-Canada border. Great Britain formally turned the post over to American troops on August 10, 1796.

Briefly recaptured by the British during the War of 1812, the locale subsequently served as a U.S. military border garrison, training base, and military prison. Construction activities associated with these developments expanded the borders of the post beyond the old fort walls. This development of the "New Fort Niagara" did little damage to the old fort complex. Natural erosion and neglect, by contrast, increasingly threatened the site's integrity.

Concerned by the possible destruction of a significant historic property, local preservationists, organizing themselves as the Old Fort Niagara Association, began restoring "The Castle" in 1926. Restoring the historic post compound with private and government funds, the Old Fort Niagara Association rehabilitated or reconstructed post buildings, grounds, and fortifications and opened the Old Fort as a public museum in 1934. Briefly used by the U.S. Army during World War II, the Old Fort was reopened as a museum in 1946. Continuing to operate "New Fort Niagara" installations, the Army surrendered title to the Old Fort to the

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State of New York between 1948 and 1949. Withdrawing the last military units from the post in 1963, the government turned all portions of the post but the U.S. Coast Guard station at "The Bottoms" over to the State of New York in 1964. Since that time, the entire 284 acre post area has been administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Recreation as Fort Niagara State Park. Park operations are managed by the Old Fort Niagara Association.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Archeological test excavations and salvage projects cooperatively administered by the Old Fort Niagara Association and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation have been conducted within the walls of Old Fort Niagara since 1979. These excavations have uncovered a series of stratigraphic layers overlaying culturally-sterile glacial clay subsoils extending down as far as 12 feet below the present site surface. Each of these layers is marked by distinctive colors and textures. Each also contains chronological and culturally diagnostic artifacts similar to contemporary assemblages found at Joncaire's trading post in the nearby Artpark site in Lewiston, New York. Collectively, these deposits document more than 10,000 years of human occupation at Fort Niagara.

Fort Niagara site stratigraphy generally represents the following occupational sequence:

- Layer A: 1934-present
- Layer B: 1886-1934
- Layer C: 1750s-1886
- Layer D: 10,000 B.P.-1750s

Each layer is further divided into series of sublayers (Figure 7.5). Some of these sublayers are clearly discernable strata containing distinct artifactual or architectural features associated with particular occupational episodes. Sublayer B3, for example, only contains deposits dating to what site archeologists have termed the "Middle New Fort Niagara Period, 1886-1902."

Other sublayers are less discrete. Portions of Sublayer D1, primarily containing deposits associated with the "Early French Military Period" (1726-1755) and the "French Expansion Period" (1755-1759), for example, are mixed with Sublayer C6 deposits documenting the "Early British Period" (1759-1768). Thin lenses, containing mixed deposits associated with the latter two periods, found at several locales within Old Fort Niagara document the abrupt transition from the final years of French occupation to the first decade of British control.

This intermixed stratum contains the largest and most intensive deposit of aboriginal and European objects thus far encountered by Old Fort Niagara archeological excavators. Smaller amounts of native and imported material have been found together in overlying C5 ("Pre-Revolutionary War" [1768-1775] and "Revolutionary

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War" [1775-1783]) and C4 ("Hold Over Period" [1783-1796]) sublayers. Other mixed deposits have been found in underlying D2 ("French Trade Period" [1720-1726]) and D3 ("Contact Period" [1678-1720] and "Protohistoric Period" [1600-1678]) sublayers. Objects of European origin have not been found with Late Woodland period aboriginal ceramics and lithics recovered from the lowermost D4 sublayer.

Artifacts documenting relations between Indian people and Europeans at Fort Niagara during the Historic Contact period have been found in excavations [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Stratified deposits preserved in Test Units 202-208, [REDACTED] contain the earliest evidence of contact thus far found in Old Fort Niagara (Figures 7.6 and 7.8).

Incised Late Woodland Iroquoian ceramics have been found in a hearth beneath a thin layer containing debitage, stone tools, an early 17th-century Jesuit finger ring, glass beads, and French-Canadian redwares in Test Units 202-208. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] indicate that both structures post-date these features. The stratigraphic position of these deposits, the date of the Jesuit finger ring, and identification of similar soil layers containing contemporary artifacts elsewhere within the fort compound collectively indicate that these test units contain deposits dating to what site archeologists term the "French Trade Period" (1720-1726).

The largest and best preserved assemblage of aboriginal and European artifacts thus far found in Old Fort Niagara occurs within undisturbed C6, D1, and D2 sublayers dating from 1726 to 1768 in Test Unit 352 (Figures 7.6 and 7.9-7.12). A square-shaped excavation, measuring six feet on each side, Test Unit 352 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] se of Fort Niagara's construction in 1726-1727.

Discoveries of aboriginal stone tools alongside charred wood, slag, metal scrap, mammal and fish bones, European white clay tobacco smoking pipes, Micmac-style stone pipes, glass beads, metal triangular projectile points, and other materials in intact features within Test Unit 352 sublayers dating to French and early British military occupations affirm that contact occurred between Indian people and fort personnel [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the early 1760s.

Several post molds [REDACTED] from the present ground surface, probably represent a wall

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[REDACTED] which stood at the site from 1727 to the early 1740s. Nine features were found in lower D1 sublayer deposits in association with these post molds at depths ranging from 2.5 feet to 3.5 feet below the surface. Each of these features was found to contain objects of aboriginal origin in close association with European manufactures dating to the second quarter of the 17th-century. Recovery of charred wood, slag, and metal fragments in several of these features suggests that contact in this locale occurred at [REDACTED]

Postmolds found alongside seven features (F10-F11, F13-F16, and F18) containing chert flakes, stone tools, masses of mammal and fish bones, datable glass beads, tin-glazed earthenwares, and European white clay tobacco smoking pipes in upper levels of the D1 sublayer document later contacts at this locale. These findings corroborate maps indicating that post personnel erected [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. A red clay tobacco pipe, a Micmac-style stone tobacco pipe, one metal triangular projectile point, French gunflints, and lead shot found in D1 sublayer features at this level further document contact between Indian people and French fort personnel from 1743 to 1755.

Construction of more elaborate fortifications in 1755 made this second stockade unnecessary, and it was removed by 1757. Structure 410a was enlarged or rebuilt to serve as a workshop and lodgings following construction of a new smithy (Structure 431) [REDACTED]. Located in the upper level of the D1 sublayer, Feature 4 contains a Jesuit finger ring, a metal triangular projectile point, chert debitage, stone tools, glass beads, European white clay tobacco smoking pipes, animal bone, French blade-type gunflints, lead shot, and earthenware, redware, and stoneware sherds. This assemblage and others found in Features 4/5, 5, 6, and 9 date to what site archeologists have termed the "French Expansion Period" (1755-1759).

Another feature identified as F2/3 contains artifacts dating to the period of transition between the last years of French occupation and the initial phase of British control. British creamwares, Chinese export porcelain, scratch blue stonewares, and English flint gunflints appear for the first time alongside French tin-enameled ceramics, French-Canadian redwares, and blade-type gunflints found in earlier features. Although the number of animal bones and European white clay tobacco smoking pipes remains constant, the number of chert flakes, glass beads, and stone tobacco pipes falls off dramatically.

Marker artifacts providing evidence of contact with Indian people completely disappear in later assemblages uncovered in Test Unit 352. This discovery, coupled with findings of artifacts representing later contact reported at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] corroborate maps and written records noting that

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British authorities shifted the focus of Indian contact from the center of the fort compound to places beyond post walls after 1759.


PROPERTY TYPES**Specific Economic Activity Site:**

Large, Multiple Function, Long-Term, Fortified Trading Site

Above mentioned archeological findings identify particular locales containing the best known intact physical evidence of archivally documented trade and exchange with Indian people in this large, permanent, fortified post. The French and their British successors primarily used Fort Niagara as a military base, trading post, and administrative center. Senecas and other Indians regarded Fort Niagara as a supply depot, conference center, refuge, and, on occasion, military objective.

SITE INTEGRITY

Old Fort Niagara has been the site of continuous intensive occupation for more than 250 years. Successive rebuilding episodes, documented in written records, are reflected in the complex stratigraphic record revealed by archeologists working at Old Fort Niagara since 1979. Erosion, battle damage, construction, demolition, and reconstruction have taken their toll of site resources. Despite this fact, discoveries of features containing mixed deposits of aboriginal and European artifacts described above clearly show that intact deposits documenting Historic Contact between Indian people and Europeans survive within Old Fort Niagara. Findings from Test Units 202-208 and 352 specifically confirm that intact deposits capable of yielding nationally significant information on Historic Contact exist



The Old Fort Niagara Association works with the State of New York to administer an active cultural resource protection and preservation program. State Park personnel and police regularly patrol park lands and enforce all laws protecting park resources. Archeological staff employed by the Old Fort Niagara Association maintain an on-site archeological laboratory and storage facility supporting ongoing site cultural research and management programs.

PRESENT APPEARANCE

The Old Fort Niagara Association and the State of New York presently maintain Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark as a historic park and outdoor museum.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National
Register Criteria:

A B C D X

Criteria Considerations
(Exceptions):

A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: 6

NHL Theme(s):

I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations.

I.D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations.

I.D.2. Establishing Intercultural Relations.

- I.D.2.a. Trapping and Fishing for Newcomers
 - c. Military Scouts
 - d. Guiding Explorers Across New Territories
 - e. Defending Native Homelands
 - h. New Native Military Alliances
 - g. Introduction to Foreign Religious Systems
 - i. Trade Relationships

I.D.3. Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation.

- I.D.3.a. Transfer of Technology to Native People
 - b. Forced and Voluntary Population Movements
 - c. The New Demographics
 - d. Changing Settlement Types

Areas of Significance: Archeology/Historic Aboriginal

Period(s) of Significance: 1600s-1700s

Significant Dates:

- 1678 La Salle builds Fort Conde on the site. It is destroyed and abandoned the following year.
- 1687 Fort Denonville is built on the site. It is dismantled and abandoned one year later.
- 1720 French "*Capitaine des Sauvages*" Louis-Thomas Chabert de Joncaire establishes a trading post upriver at the present Artpark site in present-day Lewiston, New York.
- 1726 The French build Fort Niagara on the site.
- 1759 Fort Niagara falls to a besieging British-Colonial army.

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- 1764 British diplomats conclude important peace treaties with a number of Indian nations at the fort ending the eastern phase of Pontiac's War.
- 1778-1783 More than 2,700 Indian refugees are sheltered under the walls of the fort during the American War for Independence. The British continue to hold the post when the war ends in 1783.
- 1796 The British surrender the Fort and other Great Lakes posts to the Americans.

Significant Person(s):**Cultural Affiliation:** Seneca (Iroquois)

Architect/Builder: Gaspard Chaussegros de Lery, the Elder (1726)
Captain Pierre Pouchot (1755)
Lieutenant George Demler (1767)
Lieutenant John Montessor (1770)

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**HISTORIC CONTEXT SUMMARY STATEMENT**

Regional Historic Context: "Historic Contact Between Indians and Colonists in the Trans-Appalachian Region, 1524-1783," pp. 164-188.

Sub-Regional Historic Context: "The Niagara Frontier and Portage Escarpment," pp. 234-237 and "European-Indian Contact in the Trans-Appalachian Region," pp. 263-268.

SIGNIFICANCE AND THEMATIC REPRESENTATION

Old Fort Niagara was designated as a National Historic Landmark on October 9, 1960 under the theme of European Colonial Exploration and Settlement as a "one of the best restored and preserved of America's historic military posts" (Shedd 1958). A more recent boundary study describes Old Fort Niagara as the locale of a number of nationally significant events containing "the most complete collection of extant 18th century military architecture in the U.S." (Conlin 1985).

Archeological resources associated with Historic Contact between Indian people and Europeans preserved within the Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark conform to National Historic Landmark Program significance criterion 6 by yielding or having the potential "to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States" (35 CFR Part 65.4).

Cultural resources representing the only known physical evidence of otherwise extensively chronicled relations between Indian people and Europeans where the Niagara River flows into Lake Ontario, between 1678 and the years following the American War for Independence, have revealed, and continue to possess the potential to further reveal, information of major scientific importance relating to Indian life along the Niagara Frontier during the Historic Contact period. Contributing resources preserved within the Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark also shed light on early relations between Indian people and colonists in the Trans-Appalachian Region by providing new insights into cultural developments of national significance associated with the following NHL thematic elements:

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Theme I: Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations.

Sub-Theme I.D: Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations.

Facet I.D.2: Establishing Intercultural Relations.

Documentary data link 24 NHLs and NPS Park Units with this facet. Archeological investigations document aspects of sub-facets associated with this facet at six properties; Boughton Hill, Fort Christina, Fort Stanwix National Monument, Fort Ticonderoga, Old Fort Niagara, and the Printzhof. Four of these, Boughton Hill, Fort Stanwix National Monument, Fort Ticonderoga, and Old Fort Niagara, are located in the Trans-Appalachian Region.

Nearly all properties nominated in the Historic Contact Theme Study possess archeological values documenting sub-facets listed below. Archeological resources currently undocumented in the Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark designation form, however, represent the only properties documenting the Indian role in establishing intercultural relations in the Niagara Frontier and Portage Escarpment available for designation through the Northeast Historic Contact Theme Study. Documentation presented in Section 7 above further shows that archeological resources in the Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark have yielded and retain the potential to yield nationally significant information associated with each of the below listed sub-facets:

Sub-Facet I.D.2.a: Trapping and Fishing for Newcomers

Discoveries of intact deposits containing well-preserved floral and faunal remains associated with Indian contact are rarely reported in Northeastern North American European colonial forts. Recovery of deer, bear, fish, and other animal bones, fish scales, shells, and charred botanical remains in intact features within Old Fort Niagara can physically corroborate archival records documenting the Indian role in provisioning European garrisons occupying the post from 1726 to 1796.

Sub-Facet I.D.2.c: Military Scouts

Sub-Facet I.D.2.d: Guiding Explorers Across New Territories

Above mentioned intact deposits preserving evidence of contact between Indian people and colonists have high potential to provide new insights into archivally documented Indian roles as guides and military scouts for explorers like La Salle, garrison troops posted at Fort Niagara, and invading armies like the British-Indian force that captured the post from the French in 1759.

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Sub-Facet I.D.2.e: Defending Native Homelands

Sub-Facet I.D.2.h: New Native Military Alliances

These deposits also may furnish further information revealing presently unknown, or poorly understood, aspects of archivally documented Indian efforts to defend their homelands by forming, maintaining, or changing military alliances at the Fort Niagara locale during the Historic Contact period.

Sub-Facet I.D.2.g: Introduction to Foreign Religious Systems

Discoveries of Jesuit finger rings in Old Fort Niagara deposits have the potential to shed new light on archivally chronicled French mission efforts in the Trans-Appalachian region.

Sub-Facet I.D.2.i: Trade Relationships

Discoveries of glass beads, Micmac-style stone tobacco smoking pipes, and other trade goods provide physical evidence corroborating written records chronicling Fort Niagara as a strategic entrepot during the 18th-century. Relatively dense concentrations of trade artifacts

that blacksmiths, specially hired to make and maintain metal tools and weapons for Indian people, also traded with their clients.

Substantial bodies of archival evidence document Indian trade at Fort Niagara and other colonial forts. Archeologists, however, have found only scant material evidence of these activities in most known locales. Discoveries of above mentioned trade goods, in clear association with Indian artifacts in intact deposits in Test Units 202-208 and 352, provide unique data physically verifying specific locales of economic contact in a European frontier post.

Facet I.D.3: Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest,
or Accommodation.

Sub-Facet I.D.3.a: Transfer of Technology to Native People

Discoveries of substantial assemblages of French and British trade goods in deposits containing objects of aboriginal origin have provided, and retain the ability to further provide, new information relating to technological transfer at Fort Niagara.

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Sub-Facet I.D.3.b: Forced and Voluntary Population Movements
Sub-Facet I.D.3.c: The New Demographics
Sub-Facet I.D.3.d: Changing Settlement Types

Extant survey data suggest that intact archeological remains of structures related to Indian-European contact, and other associated occupational evidence, may survive in places like

Discoveries of such deposits would shed new light on the population movements, demographic characteristics, and settlement strategies of Indian people visiting Fort Niagara or taking refuge below its walls during Historic Contact times.

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Other pertinent sources are cited in "The Niagara Frontier and Portage Escarpment," pp. 236-237, "European-Indian Contact in the Trans-Appalachian Region," pp. 267 and listed in the Bibliography, pp. 361-453.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

X Previously Listed in the National Register.

___ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.

X Designated a National Historic Landmark. **October 9, 1960**

___ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____

___ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State Agency

___ Federal Agency

___ Local Government

___ University

X Other (Specify Repository): **Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site**

OLD FORT NIAGARA (Additional Documentation)

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Page 24
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: [REDACTED]

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing
[REDACTED]Verbal Boundary Description:
[REDACTED]Boundary Justification:
[REDACTED]**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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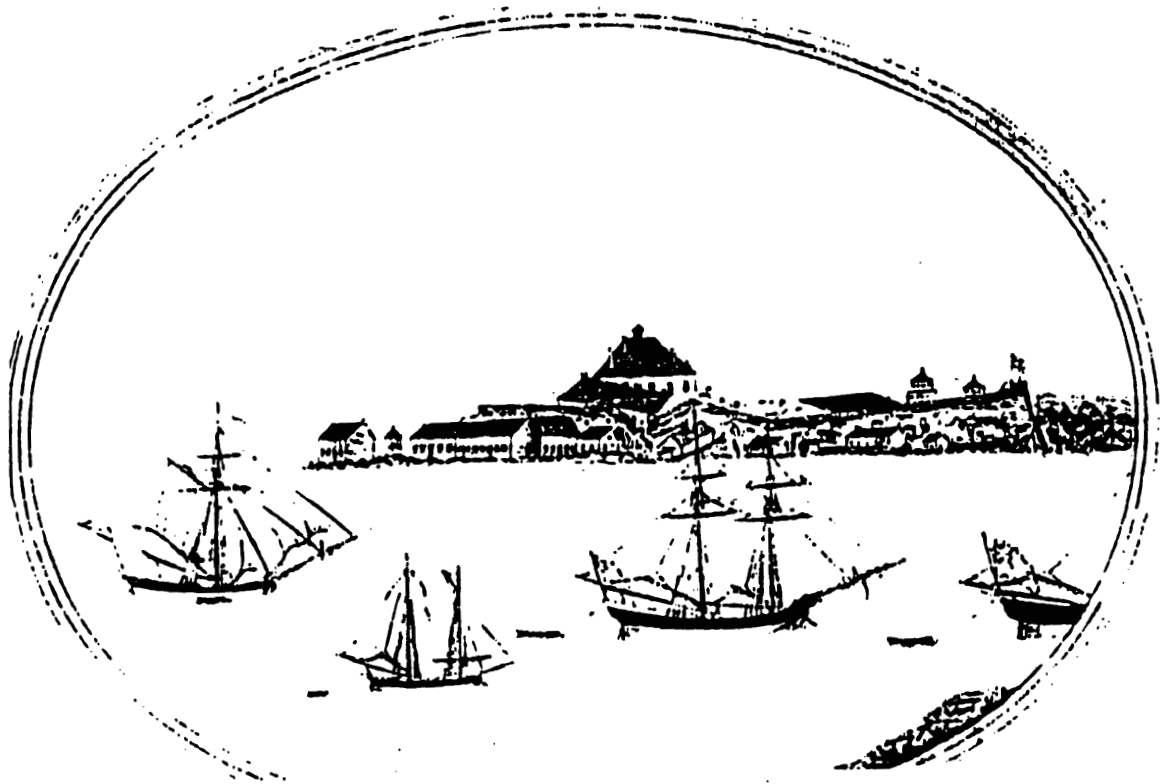


Figure 7.4:

Untitled and undated watercolor of Fort Niagara from the Canadian shore painted c. 1784 by an unknown artist. Original in the collections of the Old Fort Niagara Association.

OLD FORT NIAGARA'S CHRONOLOGICAL DIVISIONS

Native American Occupation		
Paleo-Indian Stage	D4	ca .8000BC-4500BC
Archaic Stage	D4	ca. 4500BC-1300BC
Transitional Stage	D4	ca .1300BC-1000BC
Early Woodland Stage	D4	ca .0BC-0AD
Middle Woodland Stage	D4	ca .0AD-1000AD
Late Woodland Stage	D4	ca .1000AD-1600AD
Protohistoric Period	D3	ca .1600AD-1678AD
Modern Indian Period	D3-A1	ca 1600AD-Present
French Occupation		
Contact Period	D3	1678AD-1720AD
French Trade Period	D2	1720AD-1726AD
Early French Military Period	D1	1726AD-1755AD
French Expansion Period	D1 or D1/C6	1755AD-1759AD
British Occupation		
Early British Period	D1/C6 or C6 or C6/C5	1759AD-1768AD
Pre-Revolutionary War	C5	1768AD-1775AD
Revolutionary War	C5	1775AD-1783AD
Hold Over Period	C4	1783AD-1796AD
American Occupation		
Federal Period	C3	1796AD-1813AD
British Reoccupation		
War of 1812 British Occupation	C3/C2	1813AD-1815AD
American Reoccupation		
Post-War of 1812 Period	C2	1815AD-1826AD
First Vacant Period	C2	1826AD-1828AD
Pre-Mexican War Period	C2	1828AD-1846AD
Second Vacant Period	C2	1846AD-1848AD
Post-Mexican War Period	C2	1848AD-1854AD
Third Vacant Period	C2	1854AD-1861AD
Civil War Period	C2	1861AD-1865AD
Post-Civil War Period	C1	1865AD-1872AD
Early New Fort Niagara Period	C1	1872AD-1886AD
Middle Fort Niagara Period	B3	1886AD-1902AD
Late Fort Niagara Period	B2	1902AD-1927AD
Restoration Period	B1	1927AD-1934AD
Modern Period	A2	1934AD-1950AD
Present Period	A1	1950AD-Present

*After Europeans ventured into the Niagara Frontier, Native Americans, especially the Iroquois, continued to influence regional life and changes. Therefore, the history of Native American activities after the Protohistoric Period has been included in discussion of the later occupants of Fort Niagara.

Figure 7.5

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

LOWER LANDING ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT

(contributing resource in COLONIAL NIAGARA HISTORIC DISTRICT)

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Page 1

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: **LOWER LANDING ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT**
(contributing resource in COLONIAL NIAGARA HISTORIC DISTRICT)

Other Name/Site Number: **LEWISTON PORTAGE LANDING SITE, THE HISTORIC GULLY, ARTPARK**

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: [REDACTED]

Not for publication: X

City/Town: **Lewiston**

Vicinity:

State: **NY**

County: **Niagara**

Code: **063**

Zip Code: **14092**

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private:

Public-Local:

Public-State: **X**

Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s):

District: **X**

Site:

Structure:

Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

2

2

Noncontributing

2 buildings

2 sites

 structures

 objects

4 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

Historic Contact: Early Relations Between Indian People and Colonists in Northeastern North America, 1524-1783.

AUG 5 1998

LOWER LANDING ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT**(contributing resource in COLONIAL NIAGARA HISTORIC DISTRICT)**

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Page 2
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
 Determined eligible for the National Register
 Determined not eligible for the National Register
 Removed from the National Register
 Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

LOWER LANDING ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT**(contributing resource in COLONIAL NIAGARA HISTORIC DISTRICT)**

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Page 3**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic:	Defense	Sub:	Fortification
			Military facility
	Commerce/Trade		Trade (Archeology)
	Transportation		
Current:	Recreation and Culture	Sub:	Museum
			Outdoor Recreation

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: N/A

MATERIALS: N/A

Foundation:

Walls:

Roof:

Other:

LOWER LANDING ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT**(contributing resource in COLONIAL NIAGARA HISTORIC DISTRICT)****Page 4**

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**PROPERTY LOCATION AND HISTORY**

This form contains documentation supporting the creation of the Colonial Niagara Historic District (hereinafter referred to as the Colonial Niagara NHL), the inclusion of the Old Fort Niagara National Historic Landmark (NHL) within it, and the nomination of the Lower Landing Archeological District (hereinafter referred to as the Lower Landing District) as a discontinuous contributing property. Unless otherwise cited, information in this section is abstracted from Dunnigan (1986b) and Scott, et al. (1993).

The Colonial Niagara Historic District

The Colonial Niagara district consists of a series of discontinuous properties situated at various points on or near the eastern shore of the fourteen-mile-long Niagara River between the cities of Youngstown and Niagara Falls in Niagara County, New York (Figures 7.1 and 7.3). This area encompasses the key strategic portage route linking interior North America with the Atlantic seaboard during the first centuries of contact between Indian, French, and British people from 1678 to the years immediately following the American War for Independence (Figure 7.2). Historic properties dating to the Historic Contact period located within the District contain resources that may illustrate nationally significant events in American history and culture. The northernmost of these properties, Old Fort Niagara, was designated as an NHL in 1960 and forms the basis for the Colonial Niagara Historic District. The Lower Landing District nominated herein as a contributing property to the Colonial Niagara Historic District is located seven miles south of Old Fort Niagara. The following additional properties (keyed to Figure 7.3) may be found to possess the potential to be nominated to be included within the Colonial Niagara NHL (pending further study and landowner consent) as contributing resources:

1. The La Belle Famille Battlefield, site of the defeat of a French relief force en route to besieged Fort Niagara on July 24, 1759 during the Seven Years War (1755-1762) located [REDACTED] (Dunnigan 1986a:69-80). Cut off from all relief, the Fort Niagara garrison capitulated the following day.
2. The Devil's Hole Battleground, where Seneca warriors destroyed a British convoy on September 14, 1763 during the aftermath of the Seven Years War in North America known as Pontiac's War (1763-65) [REDACTED] This action directly led to peace negotiations addressing Seneca complaints about British policies in the region.
3. The Upper Landing, locale of the 18th-century Little Fort Niagara and Fort Schlosser fortifications which secured the southern end of the strategic portage route [REDACTED]
4. The Van Son Farm Archaeological Site, the only known 17th-century Indian cemetery, [REDACTED].

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5. The Kienuka Archaeological Site, [REDACTED] containing the only known dateable archeological deposits clearly associated with a 17th-century Indian town in the region (White 1968).

The Lower Landing Archeological District

[REDACTED]

At the present time, the Old Fort Niagara site at the mouth of the Niagara River in Youngstown, New York is the only other component of Colonial Niagara NHL (Scott and Grumet 1992; Shedd 1958). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Although archeological evidence of human occupation ranging from Late Archaic times (ca. 6,500 B.P.) to the early 20th century has been unearthed [REDACTED] Historic Contact period Joncaire Trading Post and Portage archeological sites are the only properties containing intact deposits contributing to the significance of the Lower Landing District as a property of exceptional national cultural and historical importance associated with the Historic Contact period within the Colonial Niagara NHL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Portage Site contains archeological deposits associated with the French "Magazin Royale" and several other later French and British storehouses erected between 1720 and 1759, and the British fortified post known as Fort Demler garrisoned from 1762 to 1766. Intact archeological deposits associated with Joncaire's Trading Post (1720-1739) are preserved

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[REDACTED]

The following two standing buildings located within the district post-date the Historic Contact period and do not contribute to its national significance:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

within proposed Lower Landing Historic District boundaries.

Two non-contributing archeological resources are located within district boundaries:

[REDACTED]

Archeological evidence preserved [REDACTED] show that Indian people had been traveling through and camping at the Lower Landing District for at least 6,000 years when French explorer Jacques Cartier was first told about the falls at Niagara by Indians living along the lower St. Lawrence River in 1535 (Biggar 1924). Another 140 years passed before Belgian-born Recollect friar Father Louis Hennepin penned the earliest known eyewitness description of the Niagara Falls and Gorge on December 7, 1678 (Thwaites 1903). Traveling ahead of the main body of Rene-Robert Cavalier de La Salle's expedition to the western country, Hennepin described the land on both sides of the Niagara River and noted the presence of several Seneca fishing camps at its mouth.

Erecting Fort Conti at the site of present-day Old Fort Niagara shortly after Hennepin's arrival, La Salle's men also constructed a small storehouse at the Lower Landing. Materials gathered together at this storehouse to construct a sailing vessel to ply the waters of the upper Great Lakes were carried over the portage to the Upper Landing just above Niagara Falls. There, La Salle's men constructed the *Griffon* during the winter of 1678-79. The first European sailing ship on Lake Erie, the *Griffon* carried La Salle's men to the mouth of the Maumee River in western Ohio, where they built other posts to support expeditions that would penetrate into the Ohio and Mississippi valleys by 1681.

Fort Conti was burned a few months after it was built; the fate of the small storehouse at the Lower Landing is unknown. Extant sources, such as the Abbe de Belmont's "Histoire de l'Amerique septentrionale" (in Severance 1917[1]:83), note a marked increase in French trade with Ottawas, Mississaugas, Miamis, and other Central Algonquian-speaking nations from the Upper Lakes at the mouth of the Niagara River during the early 1680s. Johannes Rooseboom and other traders from the English colony of New York also began traveling along the Niagara Portage on their way west to trade with Ottawas and their neighbors by the mid-1680s.

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Tensions soon grew between the French, the English, and Senecas closely allied with the New York government. Claiming control of the Niagara River and its trade by right of conquest after forcing its original Neutral Indian inhabitants from the region by 1651, the Senecas harassed French traders and attacked their Western Indian clients as they tried to pass through the Niagara Portage (O'Callaghan and Fernow 1853-87[5 and 9]:*passim*). In 1684, French trader and frontier diplomat Nicholas Perrot, accompanied by 600 Ottawa, Huron, Sac, and Fox Indians and 150 Frenchmen from the Upper Lakes, crossed the Niagara Portage unopposed to join Canadian governor Joseph-Antoine de Febvre de La Barre's abortive invasion of Iroquois country. Three years later, La Barre's successor, Jacques Rene de Brisay, Marquis de Denonville, established a new post at the old site of Fort Conti on July 31, 1687 after leading a large army of 2,500 French soldiers and Indian allies against the Seneca towns in the Genesee Valley. Naming the new post after himself, the governor garrisoned Fort Denonville with 100 men before parting with his Indian allies and returning with the rest of his army to Quebec. All but 12 of these men died during the following winter either from disease or at the hands of Senecas besieging the post. The survivors were rescued by a party of 80 Miamis traveling across the portage from the west to trade at Montreal in March, 1688. Quickly resupplying and reinforcing the garrison, Denonville subsequently decided to abandon the beleaguered post by the summer of 1688.

Having successfully defended their rights to the area, the Senecas continued to control the Niagara Portage for the following 25 years. Anxious to establish peace with the Iroquois, Denonville's successor, the Chevalier de Callieres, ordered agents establishing the new settlement at Detroit to avoid "the Niagara passage so as not to give umbrage to the Iroquois" in 1700 (in O'Callaghan and Fernow 1853-87[9]:711). French convoys traveling to and from Detroit began traversing the Portage in ever-increasing numbers following the signing of the Great Treaty of Peace at Montreal in 1701. Growing numbers of traders also came to trade with the Senecas along the Portage. Among these traders was Louis Thomas de Joncaire. Born in France in 1670, Joncaire was a soldier in Denonville's army when he was captured by the Senecas in 1687. Adopted into a Seneca family, he became fluent in their language and knowledgeable about Iroquois culture by the time he was repatriated in 1694 (Abbe de Belmont in Severance 1906:88). Shortly thereafter, Joncaire began playing an increasingly important role in frontier politics and commerce as a diplomat, interpreter, and trader (Severance 1906:94-97).

An unsigned proposal submitted to King Louis XIV in 1706 identified Joncaire as "an officer of the marine forces in Canada, who has acquired such credit among the Iroquois, that they have repeatedly proposed and actually suggest to him, to establish himself among them" (Anonymous in O'Callaghan and Fernow 1853-87[4]:773-75). The document went on to suggest that he be sent to Niagara "without noise, going there as a private individual intending simply to form an establishment for his family, at first bringing only the men he will require to erect and fortify his dwelling, and afterwards on pretense of conveying supplies and merchandize there, increasing their number insensibly." After describing the creeping gradualism that would characterize French penetration into the Niagara Country during the next 20 years, the report concluded that "when the Iroquois would see that goods would be furnished them at a reasonable rate, far from insulting us, they would protect and respect us, having no better friends than those who supply them at a low rate."

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A report written in 1709 indicates that Joncaire began meeting with Indians at the mouth of the Niagara River to trade and talk at the site of old forts Conti and Denonville sometime around 1704 (Pontchartrain in Severance 1917[1]:162-79). Another report written in 1715 contains the first direct reference documenting trade at the Lower Landing and French use of the portage to transport supplies to the Michilimackinac post on the Upper Lakes (Severance 1917[1]:163). Joncaire subsequently erected a permanent post at the Lower Landing at the order of French Canadian Governor Marquis de Vaudreuil in the spring of 1720. Working quickly, Joncaire and his men "built in haste a kind of Cabbin of Bark where they displayed the Kings Colors & honored it with the name of Magazin Royal" (Durant in O'Callaghan and Fernow 1853-87[5]:588). A description in a letter from Captain Charles le Moyne to his father, the Sieur de Longueuil, written on April 28, 1726, indicates that Joncaire's trading post was located "on a most advantageous elevation. [REDACTED] (in Severance 1917[1]:234). Another account by Laurence Claessen, an Albany trader sent by New York authorities to convince the Senecas to force the French to leave Niagara, described the cabin as "Forty Foot long and thirty wide" (Claessen Journal in Severance 1906:125-26).

Seneca and other Indian families were drawn to the Lower Landing by the French trade. An anonymous document dated 1718 and entitled: "Memoir on the Indians of Canada, as far as the River Mississippi, with remarks on their manners and trade," describes the portage and Lower Landing in this manner:

Above the first hill there is a Seneca village of about ten cabins, where Indian corn, bean, peas, water-melons and pumpkins are raised, all of which are very fine. These Senecas are employed by the French, from whom they earn money by carrying goods of those going to the Upper Country; some for mitasses, others for shirts, some for powder and ball, whilst some other pilfer; and on the return of the French, they carry their packs of furs for some peltry. The Portage is made for the purpose of avoiding the Cataract of Niagara...(Severance 1906: 118).

Describing this same settlement while traversing the Portage in May of 1721 the Jesuit priest Pierre Charlevoix noted that from the mouth of the Niagara:

After sailing three leagues, you find on the left some cabins of the Iroquois, Tsonnothouans, and of the Mississagues as at Catarocoui. The Sieur de Joncaire, lieutenant of our troops, has also a cabin at this place, to which they have before hand given the name of "Fort" for it is pretended that in time this will be changed into a great fortress (Charlevoix 1761).

Although pit and hearth features and numerous artifacts associated with Late Woodland and Historic Contact period Indian life have been found, no clearly identifiable deposits associated with Seneca occupation have yet been found at the Lower Landing. Repeated references in French and English documents show that Senecas and other Indians continued to live in and around the area throughout the 18th century (Benson 1966; O'Callaghan and Fernow 1853-87: *passim*; Severance 1906:181, 196-97; Scull 1882).

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Niagara assumed increased importance in French eyes after they learned that British authorities planned to establish a post at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Fearing that the British would use such a post to draw away their trade, French officials petitioned the Onondagas for permission to build a more substantial installation at the former site of forts Conde and Denonville in 1726. Overriding Seneca objections, the Onondagas complied with the French request. One year later, the British built their post at the mouth of the Oswego River.

Unlike his predecessors, who often barricaded themselves within fortification walls, Joncaire lived openly among his Indian neighbors (Scott and Grumet 1992:6). Serving France as an official agent among the western Indians, Joncaire became an archetypical "Capitaine des Sauvages." Fluent in Indian languages and well acquainted with Indian politics and customs, such "Capitaines" played a vital role in maintaining French influence among the many Indian nations living along the frontiers of New France.

Maintaining a primary residence in Montreal, Joncaire periodically visited his trading post at the Lower Landing to trade furs with Indian clients, distribute presents to French Indian allies, and hold meetings with Seneca and other Indian nations (e.g. Severance 1906:159). He also used the post as a base for journeys to and from Seneca and other Iroquois towns farther east in the Finger Lake region of north-central New York. By 1731, Joncaire's eldest son, Phillippe Thomas Chabert de Joncaire, joined his father on his diplomatic and trade missions in the region. Daniel, a younger son, became an interpreter at Niagara. Both men became French Indian agents after their father died at Fort Niagara on June 29, 1739 (Severance 1906:218-19).

The absence of documentary references to the "Magazin Royale" after 1740 indicates that the cabin fell into disrepair and burned or collapsed in ruins sometime after the establishment of Fort Niagara. The Lower Landing, however, continued to be the main conduit for French and Indian people traveling to and from what was becoming known as the "Ohio Country." Shawnees, Delawares, Wyandots, Miamis, Mingos, and other displaced Indian people established villages along the Ohio Valley and Lake Erie drainage as the British and French began to assert claims over the area. Small groups of traders from the British colonies of Virginia and Pennsylvania crossed the Appalachian Mountains to trade in the Ohio Valley. Responding to the challenge, the governor of New France dispatched a French force under the command of Pierre Joseph Celeron de Blainville to directly stake claim to the region for France. During the summer of 1749, Celeron's force passed through the Lower Landing on its way to and from the Ohio Country to bury lead plates inscribed with France's claim at various points throughout the region (Severance 1917[1]:408-20).

Swedish naturalist Pehr Kalm stopped at the Lower Landing while ostensibly visiting the area to study its natural history during the following summer of 1750. In an unpublished letter written from Albany on September 2, 1750 to John Bartram of Philadelphia containing more than descriptions of plants and animals, Kalm reported the presence of 200 Senecas "at the carrying-place, who were employed in carrying on their backs over the portage, packs of bear and deer skins." He went on to write that the Senecas called the place *Duh'-jih-heh-oh*, "to walk on all fours," in reference to the way porters clambered up the escarpment (Kalm in Severance 1917[1]:378).

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Tensions grew in the region as France and Great Britain drifted towards war. Responding to Virginian efforts to penetrate the Ohio Valley, the French dispatched more regular troops to the Niagara area in 1750. Under the command of Captain Daniel Hyacinth de Beaujeau, the soldiers strengthened the works at Fort Niagara while patrolling the portage route. Farther south, the soldiers rerouted the portage path along a shorter and more level right-of-way. A small post christened Little Fort Niagara was also built at the southern terminus of the portage path at the Upper Landing [REDACTED] 1751 (Severance 1917[1]:375-76). Plans for the post called for construction of "a trading house where the clerk could lodge, a room for ten soldiers who would serve as guard, and a little room for the commandant, the whole surrounded with a palisade, somewhat flanked" (Marquis de la Jonquiere in Severance 1917[1]:375). The visiting French missionary Abbe Francois Picquet described the post as "badly made...with two kinds of bastions at the two angles of the side towards the road which leads to Niagara" with a gate forming a third angle on the upper side "the whole contrary to the rules of fortifications" (Picquet in Severance 1917[1]:379).

It was reported that de Beaujeau commissioned the late Louis Thomas de Joncaires' younger son Daniel to obtain Seneca permission to establish the Little Niagara post by sponsoring a feast and distributing gifts to Iroquois leaders gathering at the Upper Landing (La Jonquiere in Severance 1917[1]:376). Shortly thereafter, Daniel was given command of the post and authority over the portage route (Severance 1917[1]:375).

Traffic increased at the Lower Landing as troops and provisions passed across the portage path following the outbreak of open warfare between France and Great Britain in 1755. Trade goods and gifts passing through the Lower Landing played a major role in securing the support of Ottawa, Mississauga, Seneca, and other Indian allies (Severance 1917[2]:145-48, 399). Intent upon maintaining control of this vital corridor, French governor Vaudreuil dispatched Captain Pierre Pouchot to significantly strengthen Fort Niagara. While at the post in 1755, Pouchot (1781[3]:172-73) described the portage and noted the presence of three sheds at the Lower Landing and another just above it at the top of the hill.

Daniel de Joncaire coordinated Indian diplomacy and facilitated troop movements at the Lower Landing during the first years of the war. Although de Joncaire worked hard to ensure harmonious relations with the Indians, several persistent problems surfaced at a conference held in Montreal in December, 1756. Indians complained about the high prices, poor selection, and low quality of many trade goods. Expressing displeasure over the way the French operated the portage, a Seneca speaker stated "Formerly, when we were coming from war, we had the Niagara portage; 'twas promised us we should always possess it: 'tis now made by horses; we beg you to preserve that resource for us" (Vaudreuil in O'Callaghan and Fernow 1853-87[10]:503). In an attempt to remedy the situation, Canadian governor Vaudreuil gave Joncaire absolute control over the Niagara portage on April 12, 1758 (Severance 1917[2]:375). Although Joncaire worked to assure the Senecas that they would have continued employment as porters, British blockading squadrons prevented the landing of supplies for porters to carry across the portage path. Increasingly isolated as British forces captured Fort Frontenac and other staging areas supporting the Niagara posts, Joncaire finally was forced to lead his small garrison of 70 soldiers

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and Indian allies to the walls of Fort Niagara following the arrival of a powerful British army on July 6, 1759.

Numbering nearly 3,500 men, the British army promptly seized the Lower Landing and invested the main fortress. A French relief force from the west crossing the portage trail was defeated at La Belle Famille [REDACTED] on July 24, 1759. Cut off from all prospect of reinforcement, Captain Pouchot surrendered Fort Niagara one day later. Although Joncaire pressed claims in Paris and London after the war, he never was able to regain either his lands or his trading privileges at the Lower Landing. He settled in Detroit in 1767 and died there on July 5, 1771 (Severance 1917[2]:432).

British troops stationed at the Lower Landing initially lived in tents and makeshift huts set-up amid the ruins of the former French establishment. A small permanent post known as Fort Schlosser was soon built at the Upper Landing. Similar facilities were erected at the Lower Landing [REDACTED] in 1762. Christened Fort Demler, the new post consisted of a small two-room guardhouse and a 54-foot-long and 22-foot-wide log storehouse surrounded by a timber stockade and shallow ditch. The post was initially garrisoned by a small platoon of eight soldiers led by a non-commissioned officer. In later years the number of men stationed at Fort Demler varied as circumstances required.

Peace did not return for long along the Niagara following the signing of the Treaty of Paris officially ending the war between France and Great Britain in 1763. Incensed by the British failure to abandon captured French posts and to fulfill other promises made during the fighting, Indian warriors rose up against British garrisons throughout the Upper Country in a series of attacks known today as Pontiac's War. Within a few months, Indians captured and destroyed nearly every small British post on or near the Upper Great Lakes. Unable to carry the larger posts at Detroit, the Forks of the Ohio (modern Pittsburgh), or Niagara, warriors laid siege to the forts.

Indian warriors intent upon disrupting the westward supply line from Fort Niagara annihilated most of a British wagon train passing Devil's Hole [REDACTED] on September 14, 1763. Members of two companies who were at Fort Demler while in transit to Detroit were shot down as they rushed north to help their embattled comrades. Two months later, Indian warriors mounting a direct attack upon the small fort managed to kill half of its garrison before troops from Fort Niagara could come to the beleaguered post's aid. Despite these and other attempts, the garrison held out. Demoralized by their failure to capture the portage and in need of ammunition, clothing, and other goods only available from British traders, leaders from many western Indian nations passed through the Lower Landing to join Iroquois and other eastern native communities at a series of peace treaties held at Fort Niagara between May and August, 1764 (Montross in Scull 1882:258-75). Separate treaties were made with each tribe. As part of their reparations for participating in the war against the British, Senecas claiming the area by right of conquest were forced to cede land on both sides of the Niagara River (O'Callaghan and Fernow 1853-87[7]:642-53). With these negotiations finished, a substantial British force under the command of Colonel John Bradstreet was able to safely pass through the Lower Landing

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unmolested to raise the siege at Detroit. Calling in the remaining belligerent chiefs, he compelled them to make peace on August 12, 1764.

A young lieutenant of engineers named John Montessor arrived at Niagara during this momentous period with orders to oversee construction of new works along the Niagara Portage. Traveling to the Lower Landing on May 25th five days after his arrival, he laid out plans to build a mechanical cradle carrying goods up and down the Gully (Montessor in Scull 1882:258-59). By the 29th, Montessor had 656 men constructing the cradles and digging two mutually supporting earthen redoubts [REDACTED] (Montessor in Scull 1882:259-61). Other posts were soon constructed along the length of the Portage. Building a wharf [REDACTED] and mounting cannon along the ramparts of the newly constructed stockade atop the Lower Landing (christened the "Post of Mount Pleasant"), Montessor arranged for the storage of provisions sufficient to support a small garrison for a year and a half (Montessor in Scull 1882:263).

Montessor's new works secured British control over the portage (Figures 7.2 and 7.9). With the coming of peace, the British reduced their forces at Fort Niagara and withdrew the garrisons at both ends of the path in 1766. The two upper sections of the mechanical cradle also were abandoned. That same year, Francis Pfister and John Stedman secured a commission giving them sole control of commercial operations along the portage. Running the portage alone after acquiring Pfister's interests in 1773, John Stedman subsequently turned operations over to his brother Philip just before the outbreak of the American War for Independence. Philip passed the concession on to his son, Philip, Junior, who operated it until 1790.

Fort Demler burned to the ground in 1767 shortly after the restoration of peace with the Indians enabled the British to withdraw its garrison. New developments farther east ensured that the strategically located Lower Landing did not remain unfortified for long. In the mid-1770s, as tensions grew between Great Britain and her American colonies, the Lower Landing was again garrisoned by troops from Fort Niagara. As in earlier conflicts, traffic passing through the Lower Landing quickly increased as men and supplies traversed the portage. The exact number of structures standing at the locale during this period is not precisely known. A large storehouse was noted at the locale in 1781. Another report written in 1785 noted the presence of two wharves and three storehouses enclosed by a stockade (Dunnigan 1985). A small public house operated by a sergeant was chronicled there in 1787.

Niagara and its outposts became bases for raids against rebel settlements by Loyalist Rangers led by John Butler and loyal Indian warriors under the command of the Mohawk leader Joseph Brant. Both leaders found numerous recruits among Loyalist colonists and Indians forced to move to Niagara from homes farther east. The pool of potential recruits soared after more than 2,000 Iroquois people took refuge at Niagara from American armies converging on their towns during the summer of 1779. Many of these refugees took shelter in tents, huts, and caves in and around the Lower Landing. By the summer of 1782, a group of Mohawks and other Indians supporting the British cause established an organized community near the Lower Landing. Committed to retaking their homeland, they used their town as a base of operation against the Americans until the war ended in British defeat in 1783.

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Although claimed by the Americans, Niagara and the rest of the Upper Lakes Country remained in British hands for 13 years after the end of the war. Traffic continued to pass across the Lower Landing as people and commerce moved between Detroit and Michilimackinac to Canadian cities along the St. Lawrence Valley. A map drafted by Gother Mann in 1788 shows five buildings at the Lower Landing; [REDACTED] A description penned in 1790 reported "a dock, the base of the tramway, a few log huts belonging to the Mohawks, and one log tavern" at the Lower Landing. During these years, the locale became an important crossing point for Loyalists moving to what came to be known as Upper Canada. Loyalist Indians living near the Lower Landing either moved to new homes nearby in the Tuscarora Reservation or relocated farther west to the Grand River Valley in what became the Six Nations Reserve.

Loyalists moving to the west bank of the Niagara River began improving a rough trail linking newly established communities at Queenston and Chippawa. By 1789 Loyalist merchants were using the trail to transport goods around Niagara Falls. A new landing was built across from the Lower Landing at the village of Queenston by 1790. Shortly thereafter, British troops graded the steep terrain on the west bank of the river to build a more secure, but longer, portage around the Falls (see Figure 7.11 for a map showing both the old portage route paralleling the east bank of the Niagara River and the new route on its' west side). By early 1791, these troops had also built substantial storehouses at Queenston, Chippawa, and Fort Erie. The new trail built by these men was declared the official British route around the Falls later that year. That same year, Upper Canada's governor John Graves Simcoe ordered the construction of a ferry linking the Lower Landing with Queenston.

LATER HISTORY OF THE LOWER LANDING AREA

The Lower Landing was transformed from a major entrepot into a ferry terminus as Queenston quickly grew in size and importance. Only a small wharf and a single building, evidently the ferry house, appears on a 1796 map drafted the year the British finally surrendered the area to the Americans. A small log cabin was subsequently built by an American army veteran named Lemuel Cooke near the site of Joncaire's post on or about 1802.

The American side of the river remained a quiet backwater until forced once again into prominence by the outbreak of the War of 1812. One of the few areas accessible to troops crossing the river, the Lower Landing again became a center of military activity. American Major General Stephen van Rensselaer used the locale as a staging area and artillery emplacement supporting his unsuccessful attack on a British army led by Major General Isaac Brock stationed across the river at Queenston Heights on October 13, 1812. Repeatedly traversed by contending British and American troops, the Lower Landing and its houses were burned with others on the American side by British troops on December 18, 1813 in retaliation for the American burning of the village of Newark on the Canadian side of the river two weeks earlier. A new ferry house was built at the locale some years after the war ended in 1815. Various owners continued to operate the ferry at the Lower Landing as the gorge became an increasingly popular tourist destination during the 19th century.

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The Lower Landing was turned to other uses during the 1800s (Figure 7.11). Local entrepreneurs operated limestone and sandstone quarries at the top of the escarpment to the east and south of the Gully. Steamer service, begun on Lake Ontario in 1816, speeded regional transportation. Seymour Scovill built a two-story mansion for his family named Oak Hill just above the Hopewell Indian Mound in 1834. Wooden tracks for the horsecar-drawn Lockport and Niagara Falls Strap Railroad were laid along the Gully in 1837. This line was replaced in 1851 by the steam-driven Lewiston Branch of the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad running along the northern boundary of today's Artpark complex (Figure 7.14). An iron cable suspension bridge also was completed over the Niagara Gorge just to the south of the Lower Landing in 1851. Collapsing into the river in 1864, it was replaced by a second suspension span in 1899. This bridge was replaced by the present steel arch structure in 1962.

Ownership of the Lewiston Branch changed hands when the New York Central Railroad acquired the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad in 1887. A new trolley line paralleling the banks of the gorge from Youngstown to Niagara Falls was constructed across the Gully in 1895. Known as the Great Gorge Route, it remained a major tourist attraction until closed by a rockslide in 1935. Although ferries continued to run from the Lower Landing wharf, service declined significantly during the Great Depression years.

Manufacturing concerns began constructing production facilities at the Lower Landing as electric power generated at Niagara Falls began to attract industry to the region during the first decades of the 20th century. The first of these enterprises, the Porter Fibre Bottle Works, was constructed at the Lower Landing in 1907. A concrete water tower in the shape of one of the factory's baked wood-pulp products was erected near the plant one year later. That same year, the owner of the plant, Major D. Porter, moved into the Berrick Homestead, a modest frame house located at the northern end of the Gully. The plant did not prosper, and Porter was forced to sell the property to the Child's Electric Wind Turbine Company of Rochester in 1911. Another firm, the Riverside Paper and Pulp Company, tried to operate the plant, but it too was forced to shut down in 1919. Left vacant after its acquisition by the Niagara Falls Power Company, the plant burned down on July 4, 1929.

The village of Lewiston began operating a waterworks at the base of the Gully in 1916. The Chateau Gay Winery Company opened for business in 1933 just east of the bottle plant. Four years later, both the waterworks at the mouth of the Gully and the quarry at its top were officially closed. The quarry tract was acquired in 1944 by the Stauffer Chemical Company, who used it to dump sulfur, carbide, petrochemicals, and other industrial waste products. Pollution from this and other industries began driving other corporations from the area during the second quarter of the 20th century. As mentioned earlier, the Great Gorge tourist railway closed in 1935. Unable to compete with automobiles and no longer able to attract tourists to the increasingly blighted area, both ferry and rail service at the Lower Landing ended by 1950. Several small residences and a modest business known as the Bunjo Motel were soon built in the area.

Trucks began rumbling over a roadway built over the oldest of the Lower Landing railroad beds in 1958. Rolling continuously until 1961, they carried rock and spoil dredged from the site of the Niagara Falls Power Plant construction project just upriver. It took 800,000 round-trips to dump

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more than 9.5 million cubic yards of rock and dirt into a vast 120-acre tumulus known as the "Spoil Pile." In the process, the historic "Three Mountains" escarpment was transformed into a lunar industrial landscape (Figure 7.15). Only the protests of local citizens saved the site of the Joncaire Trading Post from being buried beneath untold tons of spoil.

Spurred on by local preservationists, the State of New York cooperated with the New York Power Authority to designate land saved from burial as Lewiston State Park in 1961. Shortly thereafter, fires obliterated the winery, the Oak Hill mansion, and several small residences on the property. Bunjo Motel buildings were loaded onto flatbed trucks and trundled to the business's present location near the foot of Center Street in 1970. Original park development plans called for erection of historical markers, historical building reconstructions, and a museum. All of these projects were shelved in favor of construction of an open-air theater and studio for the arts at the locale. Under the sponsorship of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, and with the strong support of State Senator Earl W. Brydges, the State of New York began construction of Artpark in 1974. The theater opened in July of 1974 on the south side of the Gully just north of the old quarry area. An elevated structure, known as the ArtEl, was built for outdoor display over the old quarry. Much of the parkland was landscaped, and new roads and parking areas were constructed.

Archeological Resources

The earliest known discovery of buried cultural resources at the Lower Landing occurred when British soldiers unearthed several burials [REDACTED] in 1793. Local residents and amateur historians recognized the area as an historically significant locale as early as the mid-1800s. Regarded as an ideal locale for collecting bullets, regimental buttons, and other military memorabilia, public awareness of the area's historical significance also subsequently played a major role in preserving its cultural resources.

This awareness encouraged the owner of the Bunjo Motel to contact local avocational archeologist Richard L. McCarthy following the unearthing of artifacts [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conducting the first systematic investigations at the locale, McCarthy and his collaborators undertook intensive examination of the area. Artifacts dating from Archaic to modern times were screened [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These wide-area excavations exposed dark soil stains identified as intact postmolds, pits, and hearth features intruding into an intact clay subsurface stratum. Late Woodland stone tools and ceramics were found with glazed earthenwares, redwares, and stonewares, Chinese porcelain, tin enameled wares, decorated metal buttons, and white clay tobacco smoking pipes dating to the late 17th and early 18th centuries as well as earlier and later artifacts in and around these features (Figures 7.16, 7.17, and 7.18). Situated at the approximate location of the documented "Magazin Royal," McCarthy identified the site as Joncaire's trading post. Removing small samples from the features, McCarthy carefully reburied the remaining intact deposits. Undisturbed by subsequent construction [REDACTED]

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Inspired by these findings, McCarthy conducted further investigations in the area. Excavations

[REDACTED]

The uppermost layer contained numerous modern and early American artifacts. Quantities of metal military buttons, coins, and other materials identified by Rochester Museum archeologist Alfred K. Guthe as artifacts dating to the period of British occupation were found with Late Woodland Indian materials and trench and stone platform features within the second soil level (Figure 7.18). Beneath this level were lens of ash and charcoal containing gunflints, military buttons, iron and copper fragments, and ceramics associated with the French period of occupation (Figure 7.16). Late Woodland period lithics and ceramics also were recovered from this layer. Two additional strata containing prehistoric artifacts and features dating from Woodland to Archaic times were discovered beneath this earliest Historic Contact period level.

McCarthy named this locale the Portage Site (Figure 7.19). Features found with diagnostic late 18th-century artifacts within second buried soil level were identified as part of the remains of Fort Demler and succeeding British garrisons situated at the locale between 1759 and 1796. McCarthy conducted excavations at the Lewiston Mound in 1962. Squawkie-Hill phase corner-notched chipped stone projectile points, ground slate gorgets, a modified wolf mandible, tubular copper beads, and other artifacts associated with Hopewellian culture were found with numerous cremation and bundle burials. A radio-carbon dated charcoal sample recovered from the Mound provided an uncorrected radiometric date of A.D. 160 +/-80. Impressed by the site's research potential while visiting the excavations, New York State Archaeologist William A. Ritchie subsequently utilized Lewiston Mound data to date and describe Hopewellian occupation in the Niagara region (Ritchie 1961:217).

The New York State Historic Preservation Office nominated both the Lewiston Mound and the Portage site to the National Register of Historic Places in compliance with preservation actions [REDACTED] (Rennenkampff 1973a, 1973b). New York State Historic Preservation Office archeologist Paul R. Huey conducted other excavations [REDACTED] (Huey and Paul 1974). More recently, State University of New York at Buffalo archeologist Stuart D. Scott encountered deposits similar to those uncovered at the Portage Site while monitoring [REDACTED] (Scott and Scott 1991).

Artifacts and detailed field notes compiled by Scott and Huey during their salvage excavations currently are on file in the archeology laboratory of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation in Waterford. Materials from Ritchie's excavations at the Lewiston Mound are curated in the New York State Museum in Albany. McCarthy's investigations are documented by brief fieldnotes and sketches, several small articles (McCarthy 1957, 1961, and 1962), contemporary newspaper accounts, and recorded reminiscences of project participants (Scott and Scott 1991). Many artifacts from these investigations were given to the Lewiston Historical Society and other local museums. Others were retained by McCarthy and

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his collaborators. Those materials not retained by the investigators or given to nearby museums presently are part of the collections of the New York State Museum in Albany.

Site Integrity

Historic awareness of the Lower Landing's significance to American culture and history limited development impact and played a major role in preventing [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in the Gully at the Portage site, have been found to contain intact stratified deposits dating to the Historic Contact period preserved beneath more [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AS, The area is extensively patrolled by New York State Park Police and prominently recognized as an historically significant locale by local and regional preservationists. Looters searching for historic glass bottles have pot-hunted some portions [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] other deposits have not been damaged by pot-hunters. Development plans recently drawn up for [REDACTED]

require survey of archeologically sensitive areas, and provide for consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer in the event mitigation is required for resources impacted by future facility construction (Ballou 1991:126-27, 135).

Present Appearance

[REDACTED]

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Page 20**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National

Register Criteria: A X B C D X

Criteria Considerations

(Exceptions): A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: 1 and 6

NHL Criteria Exclusions:

NHL Theme(s):

I. Peopling Places.

3. migration from outside and within

6. encounters, conflicts and colonization

IV. Shaping the Political Landscape.

3. military institutions and activities

V. Developing the American Economy.

3. transportation and communication

6. exchange and trade

VIII. Changing Role of the United States in the World Community.

1. international relations

2. commerce

3. expansionism and imperialism

Historic Context/Theme:

I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations.

I.D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations.

I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations.

I.D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations.

2. Establishing Intercultural Relations.

c. Military Scouts

d. Guiding Explorers Across New Territories

e. Defending Native Homelands

h. New Native Military Alliances

g. Introduction to Foreign Religious Systems

I. Trade Relationships

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3. Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation.
 - a. Transfer of Technology to Native People
 - b. Forced and Voluntary Population Movements
 - c. The New Demographics
 - d. Changing Settlement Types

Areas of Significance: Archeological/Historic Aboriginal
Exploration /Settlement

Period(s) of Significance: 1678-1783

Significant Dates:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1678 | La Salle builds a storehouse at the Lower Landing to support construction of the Griffon above Niagara Falls. |
| 1687 | Indians use the Portage to join Denonville's army invading Seneca Country and as a supply route to provision Fort Denonville at the mouth of the Niagara River. Fort Denonville is dismantled and abandoned one year later. |
| 1720 | French " <i>Capitaine des Sauvages</i> " Louis-Thomas Chabert de Joncaire establishes a trading post named the "Magazin Royal" at the locale. |
| 1726 | Fort Niagara is erected at the mouth of the Niagara River. The Lower Landing becomes a support post to newly erected fort. |
| 1755 | Four storehouses containing supplies supporting the Fort Niagara garrison are erected at the Lower Landing when news of the outbreak of the Seven Years War France and England and their allies reaches the Niagara Frontier. |
| 1759 | The Lower Landing is abandoned by the French and burned by British troops besieging Fort Niagara in early July. Fort Niagara falls on July 25th. The British subsequently build a small post at the Lower Landing locale. |
| 1762 | British troops build a more substantial earthwork christened Fort Demler at the Lower Landing. |
| 1763-64 | The British build mechanical cradles for transporting goods up and down the steep escarpment walls just south of the Lower Landing. |
| 1764 | Fort Demler is attacked by Seneca warriors and their allies during Pontiac's War. |
| 1766 | The British garrison withdraws and operation of the portage is transferred to private entrepreneurs Francis Pfister and John Stedman. |

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- 1767 Fort Demler burns.
- 1771 A new post is built at the locale.
- 1775 A permanent British garrison is posted at the Lower Landing as war breaks out with the colonists.
- 1778-83 More than 2,700 Indian refugees are sheltered in and around the lower reaches of the Niagara River during the American War for Independence. The British continue to hold the area when the war ends in 1783.

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American
Iroquois Confederacy

Architect/Builder: Louis-Thomas Chabert de Joncaire (1720)
Lieutenant George Demler (1762)
Lieutenant John Montessor (1763-64)

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**HISTORIC CONTEXT SUMMARY STATEMENT**

Regional Historic Context: Historic Contact Between Indians and Colonists in the Trans-Appalachian Region (Grumet 1995:327-352).

Sub-Regional Historic Context: The Niagara-Erie Frontier (ibid., pp.416-23) and European-Indian Contact in the Trans-Appalachian Region (ibid., pp. 439-45).

SIGNIFICANCE AND THEMATIC REPRESENTATION

Archeological properties associated with Historic Contact between Indian people and Europeans preserved within the Lower Landing Archeological District express the quality of national significance by possessing exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history and archeology by containing resources with a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association conforming to the following National Historic Landmark program significance criteria (35 CFR Part 65.4):

- 1 A property that is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; and
- 6 A property that has yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts, and ideas to a major degree.

The Lower Landing Archeological District conforms to NHL Significance Criterion 1 by possessing intact cultural resources documenting "events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, broad national patterns of United States history" occurring along the uniquely important strategic Niagara Portage between 1678 and the years following the American War for Independence.

Possessing the only known intact archeological evidence of archivally chronicled relations between Indian people and Europeans along the most important transportation-break in the Trans-Appalachian Region, Lower Landing cultural resources conform to NHL Significance Criterion 6 by revealing and continuing to possess the potential to further reveal information of major scientific importance relating to Indian life along the Niagara-Erie Frontier during the Historic Contact period.

By fulfilling NHL Criteria 1 and 6, Lower Landing archeological deposits can provide new insights into cultural developments of national significance associated with the following new NHL thematic elements:

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Theme I. Peopling Places.

Intact archeological remains preserved within Lower Landing District deposits have potential to shed new light on both the Neutral Nation Indian people residing in the area at the beginning of the 17th-century, the Seneca and other Iroquois Indians who subsequently occupied the site, and the French and British colonists who ultimately wrested control of the area.

Theme IV. Shaping the Political Landscape.

Lower Landing archeological deposits may also provide new information on presently unknown or poorly documented aspects of Indian-colonial diplomacy conducted in the Niagara region during the Historic Contact period.

Theme V. Developing the American Economy.

Discoveries of extensive assemblages of European trade goods corroborating contemporary written records can shed new light on the Lower Landing's role as a key entrepot and transportation center during the Historic Contact period.

Theme VIII. Changing Role of the United States in the World Community.

Archeological deposits preserved within the District further have the potential to provide new information capable of validating or disconfirming hypotheses concerning the social and political ramifications of the Iroquois, French, and British struggle for control of the strategic Niagara Portage on America's changing role in the World Community.

Historic Contexts/Themes:

Theme I: Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations.

Sub-Theme I.D: Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations.

Facet I.D.2: Establishing Intercultural Relations.

Documentary data link 27 NHLs and NPS Park Units in the Northeast Field Area with this facet. Archeological investigations document aspects of sub-facets associated with this facet at four NHLs or NPS park units in the Trans-Appalachian Region: Boughton Hill (Ganandagon) NHL, Fort Stanwix National Monument, Fort Ticonderoga NHL, and the Colonial Niagara Historic District NHL. Archeological resources preserved within the Old Fort Niagara Site and the Lower Landing Archeological District, components of the Colonial Niagara Historic District, are the sole properties documenting the Indian role in establishing intercultural relations in Niagara-Erie Frontier Country. Documentation presented in Section 7 above further shows that archeological resources in the Lower

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Landing Archeological District have yielded and retain the potential to yield nationally significant information associated with each of the below listed sub-facets:

Sub-Facet I.D.2.c: Military Scouts

Sub-Facet I.D.2.d: Guiding Explorers Across New Territories

Above mentioned intact deposits preserving evidence of contact between Indian people and colonists have high potential to provide new insights into archivally documented Indian roles as guides and military scouts for explorers like La Salle, French garrison troops posted at Fort Niagara and the portage route between 1726 and 1759, the British-Indian force that captured the Lower Landing and nearby Fort Niagara from the French in 1759, and the parties of Indian warriors and British colonial rangers that operated against the American frontier during the War for Independence between 1778 and 1783.

Sub-Facet I.D.2.e: Defending Native Homelands

Sub-Facet I.D.2.h: New Native Military Alliances

These deposits also may furnish further information revealing presently unknown or poorly understood aspects of archivally documented Indian efforts to defend their homelands by forming, maintaining, or changing military alliances at meetings held at the Lower Landing at various times during the Historic Contact period and by utilizing the Lower Landing locale as a place of refuge following the destruction of the towns of the Iroquois League of Six Nations by American forces in 1779.

Sub-Facet I.D.2.g: Introduction to Foreign Religious Systems

Discoveries of Jesuit finger rings and medals in Lower Landing deposits have the potential to shed new light on archivally chronicled French mission efforts in the Trans-Appalachian region.

Sub-Facet I.D.2.i: Trade Relationships

Discoveries of chronologically ceramics, white clay tobacco smoking pipes, and numerous metal axes, knives, and other trade goods provide physical evidence corroborating written records chronicling the Lower Landing as a strategic entrepot during the 18th century. Relatively dense concentrations of trade artifacts excavated from samples taken from intact deposits presently preserved beneath Parking Lot C affirm written records documenting the location and importance of Joncaire's trading post at the locale during the early 1700s. Other diagnostic trade goods found at the nearby Portage Site confirm other records documenting trade between Indian people and Europeans at the Lower Landing throughout the 1700s.

Facet I.D.3: Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation.

Sub-Facet I.D.3.a: Transfer of Technology to Native People

Discoveries of substantial assemblages of French and British trade goods in deposits containing objects of aboriginal origin have provided and retain the ability to further provide new information relating to technological transfer at the Lower Landing.

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Sub-Facet I.D.3.b: Forced and Voluntary Population Movements

Sub-Facet I.D.3.c: The New Demographics

Sub-Facet I.D.3.d: Changing Settlement Types

Discoveries of numerous terminal Late Woodland artifacts in deposits dating to the French and British periods of occupation suggest that intact archeological remains of Seneca, Mohawk, and other households dating to the 17th and 18th centuries survive at various locales within the Lower Landing District. Such materials can shed new light on the population movements, demographic characteristics, and settlement strategies of Indian people living, visiting, or taking refuge at the Lower Landing during Historic Contact period times.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.☒ Previously Listed in the National Register.☐ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.☐ Designated a National Historic Landmark.☐ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #☐ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office☒ Other State Agency New York State Museum, Albany, New York.☐ Federal Agency☐ Local Government☐ University☒ Other (Specify Repository): Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo, New York
Lewiston Historical Society, Lewiston, New York
Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport, New York
Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site, Youngstown, New York

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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY
November 24, 1998